



BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS NAVAJO REGION

Report to the 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL



Navajo Nation Fish Hatchery located in Toadlena, New Mexico. BIA provided funding for the expansion of the Fish Hatchery located in Toadlena, New Mexico.

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July 17, 2023

As we enter Summer, the BIA, Navajo Region and Agency employees continue to provide an excellent deliver of service to the Navajo Nation whether it be through issues related to the monsoon season; responding to fire calls and providing excellent customer service to the public. We strive to maintain fluidity in our collaboration and communication with the Navajo Nation leadership and the Navajo people.

Our team received and distributed the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 funding through Congressional Appropriations to all approved Public Law (P.L.) 93-638 contracts. This included the additional Calendar Year (CY) 2022 Contract Support Costs funding, one-time ARPA funding, and one-time funding for projects to the Navajo Nation. We ensure all funds awarded, through the P.L. 93-638 contract mechanism, benefit the Navajo Nation.

The Branch of Engineering in conjunction with the Branches of Acquisitions and Indian Self-Determination successfully completed 100% obligation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase and deliver 3,827 pallets of bottled water to the Navajo Nation Chapters and provided the Navajo Nation \$888,245.97 through a P.L. 93-638 contract. My team actively responded to the Navajo Nation's emergency request to purchase bottled water for the first responders to address the flooding and for the residents impacted by the flooding in Chinle, Arizona.

The Branch of Natural Resources hired a Rangeland Management Specialist (RMS) to work cooperatively with the Navajo Nation and the BIA, Navajo Region and Agencies to move the process of Grazing Permit renewals and/or transfers forward in a timely manner. In addition, the RMS is scheduling meetings with the BIA Agencies to discuss priorities, range needs, conservation and monitoring plans to further cooperation efforts between the Navajo Nation and BIA.

The BIA, Navajo Region participated in the Navajo Nation's two-day work session on road and transportation issues with the Resources & Development Committee and the Department of Transportation.

Finally, we are committed to successfully carrying out our trust responsibility and strengthening our partnership with the Navajo Nation, effectively and in a timely manner, for all federal decisions that are required.

I can be reached by email at angela.arviso@bia.gov and by cell phone at (505) 728-1332.

Sincerely,

**ANGELA
ARVISO**

Digitally signed by
ANGELA ARVISO
Date: 2023.07.05 10:01:45
-06'00'

Angela M. Arviso, Acting Regional Director
BIA, Navajo Region

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OFFICE OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Office of Tribal Government Services (OTGS) continues to represent the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) at various governmental meetings including the Navajo Nation's Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation Council meetings, Navajo Nation Council Delegate meetings, and Navajo Nation Council Committee meetings with Navajo Nation leadership as well as at specific Federal Agency project meetings such as BLM RMPA, IRMP FBFA and IWMP EIS.

For the spring quarter, the BIA referred 55 requests to the Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records/Enrollment program regarding Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) for prospective membership. The CIB requests range from individuals seeking scholarship and benefits to prison inmates seeking membership with the Navajo Nation. Based on enrolled agencies, see below on BIA referrals made this quarter:

Office/Agencies	Referrals
Eastern Navajo Agency	7
Chinle Agency	8
Fort Defiance Agency	5
Shiprock Agency	9
Tuba City Agency	5
Window Rock	21
Total:	55

In addition, the OTGS continues to provide updates to the Navajo Nation regarding national Tribal initiatives from the Office of the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, including transmittals of 14 "Dear Tribal Leaders" letters to the Navajo Nation. Copies of the "Dear Tribal Leaders" letters and transmittals are attached under Appendix A.

The Tribal Operations Specialist (TGS) serves as the Awarding Official Technical Representative (AOTR) for three (3) Public Law (P.L.) 93-638 contracts. Please see page 40 for more information on Higher Education, Tribal Courts, and Tribal enrollment programs.

FEDERAL INDIAN MINERALS OFFICE (FIMO)

The third quarter for FY 2023 has been steady for the Federal Indian Minerals Office (FIMO). FIMO continues to be on rotational staff as the guidance from the CDC is closely followed by the various agencies. We continue to meet with allottees at the office and provide phone-in outreaches to the communities in Eastern Navajo Agency. Activities in the field is rebounding and we are seeing new projects being proposed. The President of the United States and the Interior Secretary have mandated three (3) initiatives which are the Chaco Canyon 10-mile buffer withdrawal, Honoring Chaco Initiative, and the Chaco Ethnographic Study. The Chaco Canyon 10-mile

buffer withdrawal and the Chaco Ethnographic Study has been completed. FIMO is in the process how these projects will impact development of allotted minerals. FIMO continues to service allottees and fulfill its trust responsibility.

Ongoing Projects:

Lease extension – Terra Wash Unit involves five (5) leases, FIMO completed the leases on February 16, 2023. Enduring Resources decided to cancel the lease on March 3rd, 2023. FIMO received a response back from the Office of the Solicitor and is pending for the Acting FIMO Director’s review and decision.

Negotiated Lease – Request for negotiated lease for Indian Allotted #M180 by Enduring Resources. Pending approval from upper management for Enduring Resource company to move forward.

Ford Unit by Enduring Resources for Indian Allotted #448 – Pending meeting with company.

Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement – The BLM/BIA co-lead project has been put on a “pause status” to allow for the Programmatic Agreement (PA) of Section 106 Consultation an opportunity to catch up with the management plan. The BIA/BLM are on task to continue with Tribal Consultation regarding the PA. The projected final Record of Decision is tentatively scheduled for the Spring 2024.

Accomplishments:

FIMO has made great strides in continuing our responsibility with the on the ground activities. FIMO staff continues to strive to address the many questions received and service the allottees daily. FIMO has worked to adjust and find creative ways to assist the needs of the allottees. FIMO has also been receiving several calls on the Secretary’s Chaco Canyon 10-mile buffer zone initiative.

Outreach – For the third quarter, FIMO conducted 21 In-Person Outreach, covering 23 Chapters, by mailing out 4,363 post cards.

Allottee inquires/visits – FIMO received and assisted with 557 calls/walk-ins for the third quarter. Fifty percent (50%) of the 557 inquiries are related to Oil & Gas (O&G) activities, 13% related to probate, 8% to non-O&G activities, 3% to Off-lease ROWs, and 26% to BTFA for address changes and death reports.

Inspection & Enforcement (I&E) – BLM has not reported the I&E update.

Environmental Surface Inspection – FIMO Environmental Protection Specialist (EPS) has conducted three (3) surface damage inspections from an exposed pipeline and road issues on allottee concerns; attended four (4) Notice of Staking on-sites with BLM and operators. Inspected 150 wells on Indian Allotment lands that are producing well, abandoned wells, gas shut in wells, and plugged and abandoned wells. Recommended FANs on six (6) wells. Monitoring Automatic Fluid Minerals Support System (AFMSS) and inserted comments for BLM Authorizing Official

on Sundries. FIMO reviewed and commented on two (2) Environmental Assessments (EAs) from BLM on O&G wells proposed on IA lands with Application for Permit to Drills (APDs). EPS is working on submitting a letter with Director's concurrence to request for four (4) abandoned wells to identify as orphan wells and request for funding.

Leasing Assignments – Completed one (1) Assignment of O&G Designation of Operator.

Lease Termination/Cancellation – No Leases were terminated.

APD – There were two (2) new notices of staking for proposed well pad installation submitted with APD for this quarter.

Audit/Compliance Reviews – FIMO auditor's work plan for FY 2023 includes 44 identified cases, 14 carry overs and 30 new cases. For the 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarters, the auditors have closed out 23 cases.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

BRANCH OF ACQUISITIONS

For this quarter, the Branch of Acquisitions completed the following:

- A solicitation was issued for the demolition and remediation of the Shiprock Reserve for 46 buildings in Shiprock, NM. The program office, Branch of Environmental Management, is in process of evaluating the proposals.
- 140A0921C0002 was awarded to Rock Gap Engineering in the amount of \$1,349,614.00 for the remediation of hazardous petroleum and asbestos for the motor operating units in Tuba City, AZ. The work for Operating Unit 3 (OU3) will be completed by July 31, 2023.
- A solicitation has been issued for a highway striping project of 33 miles for BIA routes within the Eastern Navajo Agency.
- A solicitation has been issued for the ESA Phase 3 for the Sanostee Site. Estimate date of award is July 2023.
- Purchase Order No. 140A0921P0090 was awarded to BRIC, LLC in the amount of \$344,162.00 for weed inventory, planning and environmental assessment for Land Management District (LMD) #12 in the Shiprock Agency. Work is in progress and approximately 50% complete.
- Purchase Order No. 140A0921P0084 was awarded to Sundance Consulting in the amount of \$388,452.96 for the remediation of the former Crownpoint Community School. Work is in progress and approximately 60% complete.
- Purchase Order No. 140A0921P0076 was awarded to Tehama LLC for removal of the former Black Springs sheep dip vat site, Naschitti, NM. Work is in progress.
- Purchase Order No. 140A0921P0077 was awarded to Tehama LLC for removal of the former Toadlena sheep dip vat site, Toadlena, NM. Work is in progress.

- Purchase Order No. 140A0921P0092 was awarded to BRIC, LLC in the amount of \$286,365.79 for the Paiute Creek Restoration Plan project. Work is in progress and approximately 60% complete.
- Contracts for noxious weed projects have been awarded for Western Navajo Agency and Eastern Navajo Agency within the Navajo Region.
- Staff continues to monitor and administer on-going contracts that have been issued in previous fiscal years for construction and services.
- Staff has responded to data calls from Central Office regarding various acquisition requirements.
- A total of 143 purchase requests with a value of \$11,479,832.69 have been processed or are in progress for Fiscal Year 2023.
- The work in progress for the school construction contracts is benefiting the members of the Navajo Nation by maintaining and upgrading the deteriorating BIE school conditions where many students of the Navajo Nation attend.
- BIA highways within the Navajo Reservation are being maintained and repaired for the traveling safety of the public which include members of the Navajo Nation and local bus routes to ensure the safety of the students.

BRANCH OF PROPERTY

The Annual Physical Inventory continues to be a work in progress currently set to be finalized for submission in mid-July. The inventory, consisting of personal and real property, is to be verified against the official record. This will assist programs in determining if assets need to be excessed. Property staff have been assisting programs in the process to excess and dispose of excess equipment.

Staff assisted in the permit for the Navajo Nation Treaty Day Celebration at Fort Defiance Agency. Staff has been involved with various projects, assisting the BIA Navajo Region programs, or providing guidance to Navajo Nation programs or other individuals involving real property, Use Permits, or Service Line Agreements (SLAs).

The SLAs include Mariano Lake Community School and Ojo Encino Day School with the respective electrical utility to run power for their marquee. Staff are investigating the possible need for an SLA at Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community School as there are multiple agencies connected to the existing sewer lagoon and will need to be connected to the newly constructed lagoon. This includes Navajo Housing Authority, San Juan County, and Navajo Nation Police Department.

Staff has been collaborating with the Branch of Real Estate Services as to a discrepancy found regarding the Leupp Schools property. Research is ongoing to determine if the reversion of a portion of the property has been completed. The property in question does not appear to have been fully reverted to the Navajo Nation as an error was discovered during the process.

Staff is in the process of researching the Administrative Lands in Chinle, Arizona where the Chinle Justice Center is currently located. A contractor working for the Navajo Nation

Department of Justice has requested information regarding as to if the land has reverted to the Navajo Nation, when this occurred, and if it was completed.

Staff has been involved in the discussions regarding the Rocky Ridge Boarding School sewer lagoon. Potentially, a laundry mat and convenience store are planned for the area and is requesting to tap into the existing sewer lagoon. Staff have been researching the land status and if any SLAs have been issued.

BRANCH OF BUDGET MANAGEMENT

Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 - Below is a summary of FY 2023 funds provided to the Navajo Nation under P.L. 93-638 contracts, as of June 20, 2023. Total funding provided is \$95,992,797.31 with \$2,755,799.00 available for draw down.

NAVAJO NATION P.L. 93-638 FUND STATUS as of June 22, 2023						
Fund	FA Budget Program	Funds Available	Not Drawn down	Total Expenditures	Distributed as of 06.22.2023	Current Available Funds
234A2100DD	A0H901010 : SOCIAL SERVICES-TPA	6,078,915.00	0.00	6,078,915.00	6,078,915.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0H901040 : Domestic Violence	146,000.00	0.00	146,000.00	146,000.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0H913030 : WELFARE ASSISTANCE-TPA	33,433,711.00	0.00	33,433,711.00	33,433,711.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0H922020 : IND CHILD WELFARE ACT-TPA	1,512,395.00	0.00	1,512,395.00	1,512,395.00	0.00
23XA2100DD	A0H937070 : HOUSING IMPROV PROGRAM-TPA	2,201,242.00				2,201,242.00
234A2100DD	A0J304545 : Conservation Law Enforcem	47,000.00	0.00	47,000.00	47,000.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0J351010 : PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	188,975.00	188,975.00		188,975.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0J352525 : VAWA IMPLEMENTATION OJS	311,016.00	0.00	311,016.00	311,016.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0J908080 : TRIBAL COURTS PROGRAMS-TPA	2,106,950.00	0.00	2,106,950.00	2,106,950.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0J908082 : Tribal Ctrs (IPA) Fac O&M	9,174.31	0.00	9,174.31	9,174.31	0.00
234A2100DD	A0N301010 : IRRIGATION, OPER & MAINT	5,500,000.00	0.00	5,500,000.00	5,500,000.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0N330000 : COOP LANDSCAPE CONSERVATN	20,000.00				20,000.00
234A2100DD	A0N342020 : WATER MGMT, PLAN&PRE-DVL P	184,629.00				184,629.00
234A2100DD	A0N3A0000 : ENDANGERED SPECIES	96,191.00				96,191.00
234A2100DD	A0N6A3031 : FOREST MARKETING ASSIST	25,993.00				25,993.00
234A2100DD	A0N9A0505 : NATURAL RESOURCES -TPA	304,315.00	300,000.00	4,315.00	304,315.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0N9B1010 : AGRICULTURE PRGRM-TPA	1,305,502.00	0.00	1,305,502.00	1,305,502.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0N9C3030 : FORESTRY PROGRAM -TPA	774,372.00	216,824.00		216,824.00	557,548.00
234A2100DD	A0N9D4040 : WATER RES PROGRAM -TPA	740,521.00	0.00	740,521.00	740,521.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0N9E5050 : WILDLIFE&PARKS PRGRM-TPA	2,586,162.00	2,050,000.00	536,162.00	2,586,162.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0R9D4040 : ENVRMNTL QLTY PRGRM-TPA	119,681.00	0.00	119,681.00	119,681.00	0.00
234A2100DD	A0T902020 : OTHER AID-TRIBL GOV -TPA	1,015,435.00	0.00	1,015,435.00	1,015,435.00	0.00
23XA2301DD	A11246060 : EMERGENCY MGMT SYSTEM	266,000.00	0.00	266,000.00	266,000.00	0.00
234A2240DD	A3T937070 : CSC CONTRACT SUPPORT TPA	19,572,083.00				19,572,083.00
234A2100DD	AEE904040 : JHNSN O'MALL A GR TPA BIA	3,865,977.00	0.00	3,865,977.00	3,865,977.00	0.00
234A2100DD	AEE931010 : TRIBAL SCHOLARSHI TPA BIA	13,580,558.00	0.00	13,580,558.00	13,580,558.00	0.00
TOTALS		95,992,797.31	2,755,799.00	70,579,312.31	73,335,111.31	22,657,686.00

TRUST SERVICES

BRANCH OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The lack of precipitation has made a negative impact on the availability of forage for livestock and wildlife. The rangeland forage that has been depleted by the grazing animals and the multiyear drought has left the rangeland in fair to poor conditions due to these conditions, there is a need for the continued removal of livestock from the Navajo rangelands. The current winter and spring precipitations have improved rangeland resources, but the overall reduction in rangeland livestock needs to continue and natural resource conservation efforts need to continue. The removal of livestock and deferment of grazing is needed for the rangelands to rest and to restore itself. The Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice-President need to provide active leadership in the natural resource management and conservation efforts and these efforts need to be given priority as these resources are the foundation for all other efforts to improve life of the Navajo Nation residence.

The Navajo Regional Office (NRO) Branch of Natural Resources (BNR) Soil Scientist was hired as the Navajo Region Rangeland Management Specialist (RMS). The Soil Scientist position became vacant and is going through Human Resources for advertising.

The RMS continues working cooperatively with the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Region including the Agencies except Eastern Navajo Agency. The main objective is to move the Grazing Permit renewal and transfers forward as quickly and as legally possible.

All Monitoring Plans will need to include new vegetative production gathering efforts for new base line information to start with. Monitoring cages in key areas will be setup so that vegetative production can be gathered in September/October and then final utilization can be gathered at the proper time; after the grazing season has completed and plants have stopped growing. This in turn will help facilitate a smoother transition of permit renewals and transfers and help cooperative efforts between the Navajo Nation and the BIA. As part of the continuing efforts, the RMS is working on a template or a Scope of Work (SOW) for a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) / Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Range Management Plan (RMP) and or Land Management Plan (LMP) for the entire BIA Navajo Region. Data call has been requested for documentation and or numbers pertaining to number of acres for rangeland, number of acres for farm plots, and number of acres for legal homesites from each agency.

The RMS continues to review and provide technical assistance on matters pertaining to grazing, agricultural land use, and conservation planning to the BIA NRO Agencies, and to the Navajo Nation when called upon. RMS has been reviewing the Agency monitoring plans, the Agencies are required to have in place for their perspective permittee's. All Agency monitoring plans that have correctly been submitted have been reviewed.

The RMS is continuing to review soil and range correlations between series information and range i.e., Ecological Sites for the soil surveys that encompass the NPL. The existing surveys AZ713-Chinle, AZ715-Ft Defiance, AZ707-Little Colorado, and AZ711-Navajo Mtn soil surveys are those that have incorporated the NPL.

There is still a need to visit the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), this MOU is made and entered into by and between and among the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), BIA; and the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Production and Conservation (USDA-FPAC), Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS lead has finally provided notes for the current MOU, and the RMS is putting together details of a potential meeting to be called between the Navajo Nation, the NRCS, and the BIA NRO.

The RMS is scheduling out meetings with each BIA Agency to discuss range needs and priorities commencing with Chinle Agency who was visited recently. The RMS is currently working on legal reporting for 25 CFR 161, 162, 166, and 167 while review 54 IAM on range permit violations that would facilitate cancellation. The RMS continues to review to an extent found in AZ, Soil Series coverage, sites within New Lands and Western Navajo Agency where discrepancies have been found in Web Soil Survey to compare. Currently using similar information identified in the New Lands area. The RMS is also reviewing R035XB030NM Sandy Loam Upland 6-10" p.z., R035XC317AZ Sandy Loam Upland 10-14" p.z., R035XA117AZ Sandy Loam Upland 10-14" p.z., and R035XB033NM Sandy Loam Upland 6-10" p.z. Sodic ecological sites. These sites make up most of most soils and ecological sites found across the Navajo Nation and will lend themselves to the development of long-range planning efforts by both the Navajo Nation and the BIA in managing their best soils for livestock grazing and ultimately the economy of Navajo Nation constituent ranchers.

The RMS is also working with Western Navajo Agency to complete a contracted Crop Management Plan (CMP) that will serve to improve cropping management practices along agricultural use water ways of the Western Agency. The BIA NRO has submitted their review and finds that improving the water cycle and hydrological processes, will improve farming efforts, thus lives and economy. The Navajo Nation would benefit to see professionals working together on crop management. The Navajo Nation is now reviewing the same documents for the CMP in the hope of improving joint planning efforts.

The RMS participates in the Southwest Vegetation Management Association (SWVMA) meetings representing the BIA NRO and to partner on weed management project proposals that ultimately will aid in water and crop management resource development. The RMS participates in the SWVMA meetings to discuss the Navajo Nation Priority Weeds and potential project proposals now that the BIA's Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP) final product has been authorized for implementation. The RMS distributed target species monitoring information to all the BIA NRO Agencies. New grant opportunities in 2023 along with potential partnerships is being explored. With the new BIA, Navajo Nation IWMP in place, working with the SWVMA and other partnerships will be a huge benefit to increasing vegetation production for grazing animals, reduce runoff and or soil erosion, and raise the lands hydrological capabilities on the Navajo Nation. To promote these efforts, the RMS has participated in a weed and restoration project consultation between the BIA NRO, Western Navajo Agency, and Tuba City Administration folks to discuss resource concerns, floodplain mitigation and management, identify project areas for potential reclamation and or water resource funding, and roads. This effort will serve to benefit the Navajo Nation that should help facilitate stewardship advocacy that can reach other areas across the Navajo Nation. The Soil Scientist participated in the invasive species Stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*) Symposium to investigate the status of the I-40

corridor that goes through Navajo Nation and how close sightings may have been. South of Flagstaff and south of the Winslow track have been reported areas. The SWVMA is heavily vested in the documentation and eradication efforts where Stinknet is concerned and should benefit the Navajo Nation weed management efforts.

The RMS has submitted one (1) reviewed Conservation Plan (CP), one (1) EA, one (1) CMP, and three (3) Monitoring plans to the BIA NRO Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist and the Deputy Regional Director. One thing to take note of in the CP, it was written for a permit in NM and utilized AZ Ecological Sites. There is always some information from AZ sites that may be used but there are approved NM and provisional NM sites that should've been and can be used. Any information provided through the ongoing Soil Survey correlation efforts should help the Navajo Nation and the BIA identify natural resource concerns and priorities.

The RMS participated in weekly Drought Monitoring Technical Committee (MTC) meetings to discuss recent drought maps the NOAA has instituted for short term drought occurrence, Forest Health, short term (5 month) drought status and long-term drought status, where the Navajo Nation and northwest NM and northeast AZ is no longer showing drought conditions. This doesn't mean we are out of the current drought. The agencies in attendance gave updates and the NN Water Resources and the BIA NRO were able to provide their updated drought status. For the most part, our area is 125-150% of normal which puts us in excellent shape for long-term reduction in drought activity. We'll just have to wait and see, but the data so far is very promising.

The RMS participated by New Mexico State University Zoom, in a Tribal Drought Summit that was held in Flagstaff. With all the soil loss due to winter snowpack run-off and flooding on the Navajo Nation, it is clear water loss and soil loss needs to be a forefront discussion with the Navajo Nation. Many ranchers and prominent University and state climatologists represented technology well as the group discussed the techniques used to combat drought and mapping efforts that show that Navajo Nation is in good shape for now. However, there still is the questions of flooding and erosion. Drought mapping tools and precipitation prediction information was offered as well and will continue to be used as a tool to help direct Navajo Nation management efforts when it comes to drought, agriculture, and grazing management.

The RMS attended weekly, monthly, and quarterly Arizona Drought Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) meetings. As the BIA and Navajo Nation are non-voting (non-paying) members of this organization, it is at our best efforts that we discern all updated drought info to inform and make recommendations to the Governor of Arizona as to the drought status that should be reported. The ICG is an advisory body to the Governor of Arizona and the Navajo Nation on drought and weather-related issues. The group is comprised of State, federal and non-governmental organizations. This group normally meets just twice a year to evaluate drought conditions and consider recommendations, but due to the current drought status with the abundance of significant precipitation events and mountain snowpack levels, the group has been meeting more frequently.

The RMS is working with the BIA NRO Branch of Environmental Management to develop native plant community seed mixes for reclamation purposes for the removal of Sheep Dip Vats (SDV) that has been ongoing for several years. The removal of the old concrete SDVs and potentially

contaminated soils to Superfund Site depositories will help to ensure the safety of all Navajo Nation animals and constituents.

Shiprock Agency

The Shiprock Agency completed four (4) CPs. The CPs serve as guidance for the proper use of the Natural Resources on the Navajo Reservation. The CPs will also be used as part of the Grazing Permit or the Land Use Permit transfer packets.

Project updates:

The Shiprock Agency along with the BIA NRO and the contractor (BRIC, LLC) began the District 12 cultural resource and biological data collection portion of weed inventory for Phase 1 of the Land Management District (LMD) weed inventory project. The Surveys are part of the process of drafting an EA for weed treatment projects. The District 12 Weed Inventory Project inventoried Noxious weeds within the washes and drainages that flow into the San Juan River in Utah portion of Grazing District 12 from the community of Aneth to the Northern portion of the Shiprock Chapter. The Shiprock Agency requested funding from the BIA's Noxious weed program. The inventory will allow the agency to formulate treatment plans to mitigate the noxious weed populations within the Shiprock Agency. The mitigation of weeds assists the Shiprock Agency in preserving Navajo Nation Natural Resources for example weed mitigation preserves water resources by controlling the invasive weeds which take up a vast amount of water and mitigation also preserves soil resources on the Navajo Nation by allowing more desirable plants to inhabit space utilize the nutrients found in the soil.

The Shiprock Agency continued the implementation of phase two of the LMD 12 Weed inventory project. The agency received funding from the BIA central office weed program to inventory weeds in the tributaries of the San Juan River in the communities of Beclabito, Gadiiahi/Tokoi, Shiprock, Red Valley and Cove chapters. The contractor for this project is Hidden Water. This quarter the contractor completed the inventory of the weeds in the project area. The contractor will now work to complete both the Biological and Cultural resource surveys of the project area. The project will provide data needed to make management decisions in areas within District 12. The mitigation of weeds assists the Shiprock Agency in preserving Navajo Nation Natural Resources for example weed mitigation preserves water resources by controlling the invasive weeds which take up a vast amount of water and mitigation also preserves soil resources on the Navajo Nation by allowing more desirable plants to inhabit space utilize the nutrients found in the soil.

The Shiprock Agency along with the BIA NRO and the contractor (BRIC, LLC) are currently working to complete the McCracken Mesa Range inventory. The project is to inventory all the plant forage species in the McCracken Mesa region of the Navajo Reservation on 110 transect point. The field data collection portion of the project began on November 1st the field data collection portion of the project is complete. The contractor is now working on a report identifying the amount of forage on McCracken mesa. The amount of forage calculations will allow the agency and other stakeholders to formulate various management decisions based on the most current information. The project encompasses the BIA trust responsibility by calculating the amount of forage in the McCracken Mesa region, so the Navajo Nation and other stakeholders can make management decisions to preserve the grass asset.

The Shiprock agency has received funding from the BIA Central Office to complete Phase 3 of the LMD 12 weed inventory project. The project will inventory weeds in the Red Valley Cove and Sanostee communities. The next step in the process will be the solicitation of the project to collect contractor bids. Once a contractor is chosen then the project will be completed. The agency will provide updates when they arrive on the progress of the project in subsequent reports.

Coordination with Organizations:

The Shiprock Agency recently started to work with the Navajo Sustainable Agriculture organization. The organization has obtained a grant from New Mexico State University to draft conservation plans for Navajo Permittees in the New Mexico portion of Shiprock Agency and in Eastern Navajo Agency. The group has so far turned in three conservation plans for review by the agency. Conservation plans are dynamic plans the producer uses to make management decisions within their respective farms or livestock operations.

Livestock removal:

The agency coordinated with the local grazing official, Navajo Nation Departments of Agriculture and Resource Enforcement for the removal of 193 head of horses from Districts 12 & 13, the number of horses equates to 965 sheep units removed from the Shiprock Agency. The agency also removed a total of 68 cattle from Districts 12 & 13 for a total of 272 sheep units removed. This quarter the agency has removed a total of 261 head of cattle and horses for a grand total of 1,237 sheep units. The total removal of 1,237 sheep units aligns with the BIA mission of conserving trust assets (grass in this case).

Western Navajo Agency

The Former Bennett Freeze Area Integrated Resource Management Plan:

The BIA has prepared a Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) to evaluate potential environmental impacts of the Final Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA). The BIA, in close consultation with the Navajo Nation, developed the IRMP in accordance with the American Indian Agricultural Resources Management Act (AIARMA) and other applicable laws and regulations. The FPEA was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The BIA presented the Final PEA and the Final IRMP to the Navajo Nation on January 11, 2022. All information on the NEPA and IRMP process can be found at the Project website at www.bia.gov/FBFA-EA. On December 21, 2022, the Navajo Nation Council Resources & Development Committee approved Resolution #RDCD-35-22, which approved the IRMP and the proposed action under the PEA. The Resolution also recommended that the BIA adopt the IRMP. The BIA issued a Notice of Decision on March 02, 2023, regarding adoption of the IRMP and the associated PEA.

The Western Navajo Agency BNR has requested a meeting with the new Navajo Nation administration for a briefing meeting on the FBFA IRMP and Final PEA. The requested meeting will be a follow up to the Notice of Decision that was issued for the Final PEA and to discuss and plan for the implementation of the IRMP, which would include a formation of an Interdisciplinary Team to implement and monitor the progress of the implementation of the IRMP.

FBFA Livestock Water Project:

The Western Navajo Agency BNR has and continues to coordinate with the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources (NNDWR) and USDA NRCS to work on water development projects for livestock and wildlife use in the FBFA of the Western Navajo Agency. This includes the funds that have been provided to the NNDWR to maintain and improve developed water sources, such as windmills and earthen tanks. Coordination with the NRCS on Environmental Quality Incentive Program projects with individuals with grazing permits or agricultural land use permits continues when the opportunity warrants. In addition, plans are being implemented for the development of livestock and agricultural watering points for individuals who haul water for livestock and farming. Two (2) watering points sites have been identified and funded. For the watering point in the Cameron Chapter area, the BIA has secured a Contractor for developing the design of and installation of a pipeline and watering point. The second watering point is to be located at an existing windmill near the Moenkopi Wash and US Highway 89. The second one is being installed by NNDWR.

LMDs 1 and three (3) RMPs:

The LMD three (3) RMPs and the EA for the RMP have been completed in draft by the contractor and the BIA will complete the final steps of the EA to ensure a NEPA decision is issued. The RMP for LMD 1 is in process and is scheduled to be completed in December 2023. The management plan for LMD 1 will address rangeland and cropland areas. The LMD 3 covers over 1.4 million acres, and effects 661 Grazing Permits and the LMD 1 covers 833,625 acres and effects 535 Grazing Permits and 51 Agricultural Land Use Permits. These projects were developed to ensure they are aligned with the FBFA IRMP.

Cropland Management Plan (CMP) for LMD 3:

The Western Navajo Agency continues to work on the development of a CMP for LMD 3. The CMP is to provide documentation for the management of croplands for 193 Agricultural Land Use Permits, which cover about 1,030 acres, and any new areas that are put into cropland. The documentation will assess environmental impacts on the physical environment by the variety of farming activities in LMD 3. In addition, agricultural projects under the Navajo Thaw projects are included in the Plan. Like the LMD 3 RMP, this project is being developed to be aligned with the FBFA IRMP PEA. This project is to be completed in July 2023.

Grazing Management and Stream Restoration Plans for Tsegi, Nitsin and Betatakin Canyons:

The implementation of the Tsegi Canyon portion of the “Grazing Management and Stream Restoration Plans for Tsegi, Nitsin and Betatakin Canyons continues and is progressing. Currently work is occurring in Betatakin Canyon and two (2) side canyons of Long Canyon for restoration implementation. Temporary fencing is used in the restoration project are for keeping livestock out of treated areas and to protect restoration work from livestock use. Included in the restoration work are the installation of erosion control structures, reseeding, and replanting. In areas where restoration efforts have been completed, the cooperators continue to monitor and do maintenance as the need arises. The BIA has made funds available to the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Natural Heritage Program (NHP) using P.L. 93-638 processes, to hire a seasonal, 3-person, dedicated seed collecting crew that will travel and camp in the more distant and remote areas of the Navajo Nation to collect seeds for use in restoration projects. The collection activity will allow NHP to increase collections of priority species in underrepresented regions/ecoregions

of the Navajo Nation while also providing employment opportunity and occupational training/experience in natural resource management to the Navajo People.

Other Western Navajo Agency Projects:

In addition to the projects mentioned above, the Western Navajo Agency BNR staff continue to work on the following Projects:

- a) LMD 1 and LMD 3 Boundary Fence installation of cattleguards on BIA numbered roads that traverse these fence lines,
- b) The Shonto Wash noxious weed treatment plan development, and
- c) The Paiute Canyon noxious weed inventory and control project. The noxious weed inventory for LMD 5 has been completed and the EA for the Shonto Weed Treatment Project and post-treatment restoration plan will be completed this year. Please visit the following website to get additional information on the BIA NRO's efforts to address management of noxious weeds on the Navajo Nation: www.bia.gov/regional-offices/navajo/navajo-nation-integrated-weed-management-plan.

Navajo Partitioned Lands (NPL)

Customer service provided to approximately 20 individuals, potential permittees, and permittees with information on the NPL grazing permit reissuance process and assist with referrals for fence, windmill repairs, and issues feral horses. Filling of three (3) vacant positions; Motor Vehicle Operator, Range Technician, and Laborer is being coordinated with Human Resources and those positions will be advertise in USA Jobs later in July and filling these positions will greatly assist the program complete some of its pending assignments such as cleaning out cattle guards.

Collaboration with Navajo Nation:

The office continues its communication with Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture and District Grazing Officials (DGC) with technical assistance and provide reports at their Permittee, District, and NPL Joint District Grazing Committee Meetings with updates on permits, permit orientation, permit transfer, and trespass of livestock into highway Right-of-Way (ROW). Reports also cover program activity such as filling of vacant positions and project updates on water resources (windmills, earthen dams rehabilitation, and removal and replacement of storage tanks), range Inventory and monitoring, Hopi and NPL referrals for fence repairs, noxious weed management, 1882 Executive Order fence repairs, livestock tally counts, and other concerns such as assisting the grazing official and individuals with transport of horses causing injury to another horse and damage to the family's corral.

Grazing Permits:

Reissuance of all cancelled permits continues to be a priority for the NPL office working in corporation with NPL District Grazing Committee, Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture, and potential permittees who meet all eligibility requirements within the guild lines established by Navajo Nation Council Resources & Development Committee legislation RDCF-20-17. Monitor the 28 active permits reissued under the Phase I process including permit orientation and transfers that require documents such as district meeting resolutions, sign-in sheet, meeting minutes, and latest tally count sheets. Assist Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture with information and data to initiate the reissuance of permits under Phase II and Phase III procedures.

Water Resources:

Completed the 2023 windmill assessment identifying 46 of the 94 windmills in need of repairs with minor repairs replacement of broken pump rods, standpipes, and re-leathering and major repairs to replace motors. A scope of work will be prepared including the maintenance contract to initiate the repairs for those windmills listed by precincts, chapters, and number of windmills.

2023 Windmill Maintenance & Repair

Precinct 1

Chapter	No. of Windmills
Teesto	1
White Cone	7
Jeddito	5
Low Mountain	2

Precinct 2

Chapter	No. of Windmills
Whippoorwill	2
Blue Gap	1
Pinon	7
Hardrock	6
Forest Lake	3
Black Mesa	3

Precinct 3

Chapter	No. of Windmills
Chilchinbeto	2
Shonto	3
Tonalea	4

Removal and replacement of two (2) 30,000-gallon steel tanks at Low Mountain and Whippoorwill will cost \$812,325, these steel tanks located at the windmills have deteriorated due to bad water quality and vandalism. Rehabilitation of 17 existing earthen dams have been completed requiring removal of slit, repacking of the upstream and downstream berms, and designation of emergency spillway at a cost of \$250,000.00. Retention of water will benefit water for livestock, wildlife, and recharge to underground aquifers. See list of completed earth dams by Chapters, Range Units, acreages, conditions, and date of repairs.

Precinct 1

No.	Chapter	RU	Damage (ac.)	Condition	Date Repair
1	Low Mtn	409	3.37	Breach	5/23/2023
2	Low Mtn	409	5.06	Breach	5/24/2023

Precinct 2

1	Forest Lake	303	0.54	Breach	6/2/2023
2	Black Mesa	311	0.62	Breach	5/31/2023
3	Black Mesa	311	0.80	Breach	5/31/2023
4	Pinon	307	3.78	Breach	5/26/2023
5	Pinon	406	0.78	Breach	5/29/2023
6	Pinon	406	1.63	Breach	5/29/2023
7	Pinon	406	3.29	Breach	5/30/2023
8	Hardrock	304	5.75	Breach	6/2/2023
9	Hardrock	305	1.04	Breach	6/1/2023
10	Whippoorwill	408	1.31	Breach	5/25/2023
11	Whippoorwill	408	6.05	Breach	5/25/2023

Precinct 3

1	Shonto	103	0.37	Breech	6/7/2023
2	Shonto	103	3.13	Breech	6/7/2023
3	Shonto	109	3.66	Breech	6/6/2023
4	Shonto	109	1.18	Breech	6/9/2023
17		Total	42.36		

Rangeland Inventory:

Inventory of vegetation of the 1098 transects covering all three Precincts will cover a total of 871,353 acres with Precinct 1 covering 182,240 acres, Precinct 2 covering 467,955 acres, and Precinct 3 covering 221,158 acres to provide information and data for future livestock carrying capacity and stocking rates. Field work will begin at the end of August which is the end of growing season and the final report due in 2024.

Fence Repair:

Repairs to the 1882 Executive Order Fence Line will commence following the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department (HHPD) completing their archeological survey, compliance report, and issue notice to proceed. Repairs to these fences will prevent illegal trespass of livestock and improve land management. Some cattle guards were cleaned out with the assistance of BIA Branch of Transportation (BOT), and Navajo County and some pending clean out which will be completed following the hiring of a Motor Vehicle Operator. Repairs to the Navajo Hopi Mediation fences and NPL Range Units fences that have been completed are listed by referral numbers, Chapters, Range Units, and infrastructure repaired.

Referral No.	Chapter	HPL / NPL Range Unit	Infrastructure repaired
OHLA 046-2023	Low Mountain	HPL 451/NPL 406	Fence repaired
OHLA 047-2023	Low Mountain	HPL 451/NPL 406	Fence repaired
ORM-048-2023	Hardrock	HPL 351/ NPL 305	Fence repaired
ORM-031-2023	Hardrock	HPL 451 / NPL 407	Fence repaired
ORM-033-203	Low Mountain	HPL 451/ NPL 409	Fence repaired
ORM-037-2023	Low Mountain	HPL 451 / NPL 408	Fence repaired
OHLA 23-008	Hardrock	HPL 262 / NPL 305	Cattle guard repaired
OHLA 23-007	Hardrock	HPL 262 / NPL 305	Fence repaired

Chinle Agency

Conservation Plans:

Chinle Agency BNR works one-on-one with Permittees to develop personalized CPs. This process includes conducting onsite surveying and assessments. The Permittees are asked to complete a questionnaire that is given to them at the District Grazing Committee meetings when they initiate their transfer or probate process. Once GPS Coordinates are taken technical data can be gathered for that location.

LMD 10:

- Seventy-seven (77) grazing permit probate/transfer.
- Forty-six (46) ongoing Conservation Plan collaboration.
- Forty-eight (48) Agricultural Land Use Permit (ALUP) probate/transfer.
- Thirty-Two (32) pending Conservation Plans.

LMD 11:

- Twenty (20) grazing permit transfer.
- Fourteen (14) grazing permit for probate.
- Thirty (30) conservation plans for grazing permit.
- Ten (10) ALUP transfer.
- Twenty-four (24) conservation plans for ALUP.
- Eight (8) ALUP Probate.

LMD 4:

- Grazing Permit transfer/probate pending.
- ALUP transfer/probate pending.

Noxious Weed Control & Treatment:

N-27 (Nazlini Highway): Effective control, management and mapping need to be established for noxious weeds (Russian knapweed) within the ROW.

Many Farms Irrigation Project:

Chinle Agency BNR continues to participate in the Many Farms Irrigation Project & Land Withdrawal of the Agricultural Plot, which were part of the 33-canceled Agricultural Land Use Permits. The Many Farms Irrigation staff are establishing perimeter fencing. The Chinle Agency

provided all the fencing material to construct the perimeter fencing. Many Farms Chapter intends to apply the General Leasing Act of the Navajo Nation. Chinle Agency is working with Many Farms Irrigation staff to create an updated and universal list of ALUP Permittees within the Many Farms Chapter.

BNR Brand Book:

The Chinle Agency BNR produced 30 brand books. The brand books were provided to the Chinle Navajo Agency District Grazing Committee Members, Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture staff, Navajo Nation Department of Resource Enforcement - Central Agency Rangers only.

Livestock Inventory: Active/Inactive Grazing Permits:

The Chinle Agency BNR is actively compiling annual livestock tally counts for 2022. The 2022 Livestock Inventories have been completed; staff have tabulated active/inactive grazing permits based on six-years (2017-2022) on nonuse (non-inventoried). Chinle Agency has 10 chapters within the Agency. LMD 4 has 82 grazing permits. LMD 10 has 926 grazing permits. LMD 11 has 463 grazing permits.

Agricultural Land Use Permits: Active/Inactive:

In Fiscal Year 2023 Chinle Agency will begin compiling Agricultural Land Use Permits (ALUPs) tabulating active/inactive grazing permits based on field use, ground truth and crop production. During this time ALUPs will be resurveyed based on original permit acreage.

Livestock Removal:

The Chinle Agency BNR actively assists the District Grazing Committee Members and Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture with authorized Equine Rescue Operations. Chinle Agency BNR assists with providing portable corral panels, trailering/hauling of feral horses to the Navajo Nation Department of Resource Enforcement Impoundment Yard and/or auction facility. Chinle Agency also assisted Shiprock Agency BNR staff with hauling of livestock to Cow House Auction Yard.

Annual Livestock Inventories from LMD 10 & 11 have shown gross noncompliance. A total of 117 Trespass letters were sent out for LMD 10 & LMD 11.

Fort Defiance Agency

Grazing Committee Meetings and Farm Board Meetings:

Fort Defiance Agency has a commitment and mission to improve customer service through public interactions. Most inquiries are on pending applications for fencing, grazing and land use permits. Clients continue to request for updated certification of their grazing permits for hauling livestock, auctions, and supplemental funding through the United States Department of Agriculture. Fort Defiance Agency also continues to work with clients in GPSing farm plots, proposed Range Management Units, and district fence lines. Technical assistance is also given to permit holders in developing conservation plans for grazing permits and land use permits, in addition to providing technical assistance to committee members in inputting information on a transfer agreement.

District 14 EA:

Fort Defiance Agency has contracted ETD Inc., to complete the District 14 EA. This EA is for fencing of the district and the district units. The proposed action is to fence the district and district units. Alternative A is to develop water wells before fencing the district and district units. The no action is to be no fencing of the district and district units. ETD Inc. is currently awaiting review of the document from BIA Branch of Environmental Management.

Grazing Permit Information:

The Navajo Nation General Land Development Department sought grazing permits for the Blue Canyon Dam Sand & Gravel Pit project. The Agency did assist with grazing permit information within the project area. The Navajo Nation General Land Development Department will contact the individuals to provide them with project information and consent for use of the ROW.

The Navajo Nation General Land Development is proposing to construct a T-Mobile Tower within the Steamboat area. The agency did assist with grazing permit information within the project area. The Navajo Nation General Land Development Department will contact the individuals to provide them with project information and consent for use of the ROW for the Telecommunication Tower.

Non-Compliance Letters:

Fort Defiance Agency has mailed non-compliance letters to permit holders and non-permit holders. These non-compliance letters are based off the tally counts submitted by the district grazing officials. Non-compliance includes sheep units over the permitted number, grazing without a grazing permit, incorrect brand/no brand recorded on the grazing permit, trespass, etc. Copies of the non-compliance letters and tally counts were hand carried to Navajo Nation Departments of Agriculture and Resource Enforcement to enforce Navajo Nation Code, Title 3 laws. A total of 45 non-compliance letters were mailed.

Equine Rescue Operation:

Fort Defiance Agency assisted the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture, alongside with the Navajo Nation Department of Resource Enforcement with the removal of feral horses. Total livestock removed were: 26 from Steamboat Chapter on April 20, 2023. 169 from Two Grey Hills Chapter on May 23-25, 2023 & 170 from Blue Gap/Tachee Chapter on June 7-9, 2023. Total of 365 horses removed from the range land. Fort Defiance Agency assists with manpower, portable corral, livestock panels, trailers and hauling of livestock. Management of these feral horses is to protect range land.

Fencing Project:

District 14, 15, and 16 Boundary

Fort Defiance Agency BNR is assisting with fencing materials on District 14, 15, and 16 reconstructions of the existing fence line. Eastern Navajo Agency BNR hired a contractor to reconstruct the fence line.

Range Management Unit Fencing

Fort Defiance Agency BNR is assisting District 17 Grazing Committee with (2) Proposed Range Management Unit within the Greasewood Grazing Unit. The grazing permit holder(s) has

submitted required documents and being discussed at the District 17 Grazing Committee Meeting. Surrounding grazing permit holders will be notified of the proposed Range Management Unit and will need to give consent.

District Line-Fence Repair

District Fence line repair is purposed by the Lupton, Oak Springs and St Michael Chapters to repair the Arizona and New Mexico state line fence line approximately 20 miles from I-40 north to Arizona-New Mexico State Route 264.

BRANCH OF FORESTRY

A meeting was conducted at the Smith Lake Chapter on April 12, 2023, to discuss the planning phase of the Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) project in the area. Eastern Navajo Agency Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent, NRO Supervisory Forester, and NRO Fuels Management staff were tasked with informing the Chapter residents and their Chapter delegate on the plan that is being developed by the Fuels Program. The Navajo Forestry Department (NFD) Manager was unable to attend but an NFD employee was present in his place. The Fuels Management staff developed a draft plan that will consider all aspects of the project such as fuel loading, project objectives, funding for the project, safety of citizens, safety of Fuels Management staff, monitoring after burn, and the NEPA considerations. The draft plan is also geared to target the standing, dead trees that have accumulated due to the attack of the Pinyon Ips Bark Beetle. The citizens had several questions which were recorded and responded to by the Fuels Management staff. The questions provided additional considerations that are to be incorporated into the plan. Another meeting is to be scheduled within the coming months by the Eastern Navajo Agency Superintendent to address the progress of the draft plan.

A waterline project by the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources (NNDWR) is being planned in the Rock Springs, New Mexico community. The NNDWR is requesting a Timber Cutting Permit from the BIA, NRO to harvest and remove forest products within the project area which includes an Indian Allotment. Formal documents were provided to the Beneficial Indian Owners of the allotment to gain majority consent which allows for project activities to commence. In addition, a formal announcement to this proposed project was published in the local newspaper, Gallup Independent, during the last two (2) weekends of May 2023. Documents that have been returned to the NRO are being reviewed for completeness and correctness.

The BIA Forestry received a request on April 14, 2023, for records on the amount of timber cut and the number of fire occurrences on the Navajo Nation from a student at Northern Arizona University, School of Forestry. The request is related to research on the social-ecological history of forestry on the Navajo Nation. The request was processed through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Coordinator. The official FOIA request sought for "historical records on forest management in the Navajo Nation from 1900 to the present (date of the request, May 3, 2023). Specifically interested in records on wildfires, sawmill operations, grazing management, and timber cut." A search was completed by the Branch of Forestry and discovered one (1) document in electronic format entitled "HISTORY OF THE NAVAJO FOREST 1983 - 1999". The document was forwarded for further review and processing to the FOIA coordinator on May 26, 2023.

BRANCH OF FIRE MANAGEMENT

Prevention

Executive Order for Stage One Fire Restriction was lifted on August 4, 2022, permitting open burning with registration from the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA).

The NNEPA / Air Quality Control and Operating Permit Programs Office provided these fire registration totals (Table 1):

Agricultural/ Field Burning	Cultural Traditional	Complaints
160	8	0

Table 1. Total burn registrations separated by types. Total 168.

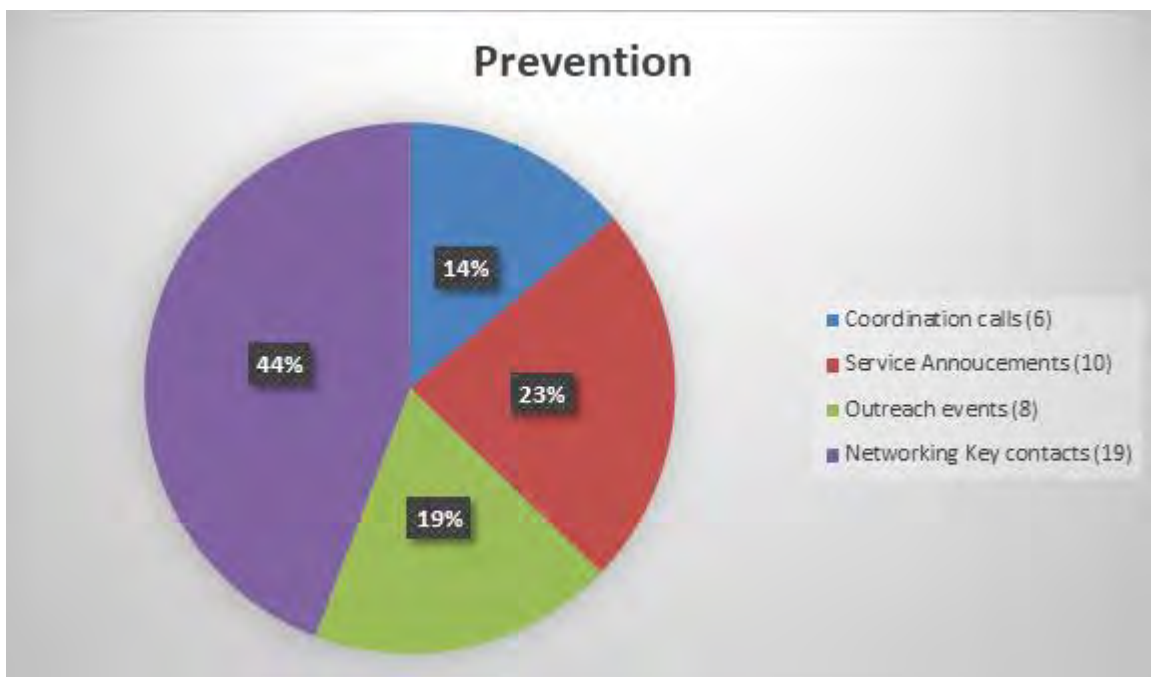


Figure 1. Fire Prevention Activities from April 2023 to June 2023

Fire Prevention Specialist participated in Northern Arizona Zone Fire Restriction calls, BIA Southwest Fire Prevention Calls, and information webinars discussing restrictions, wildfire potential and prevention.

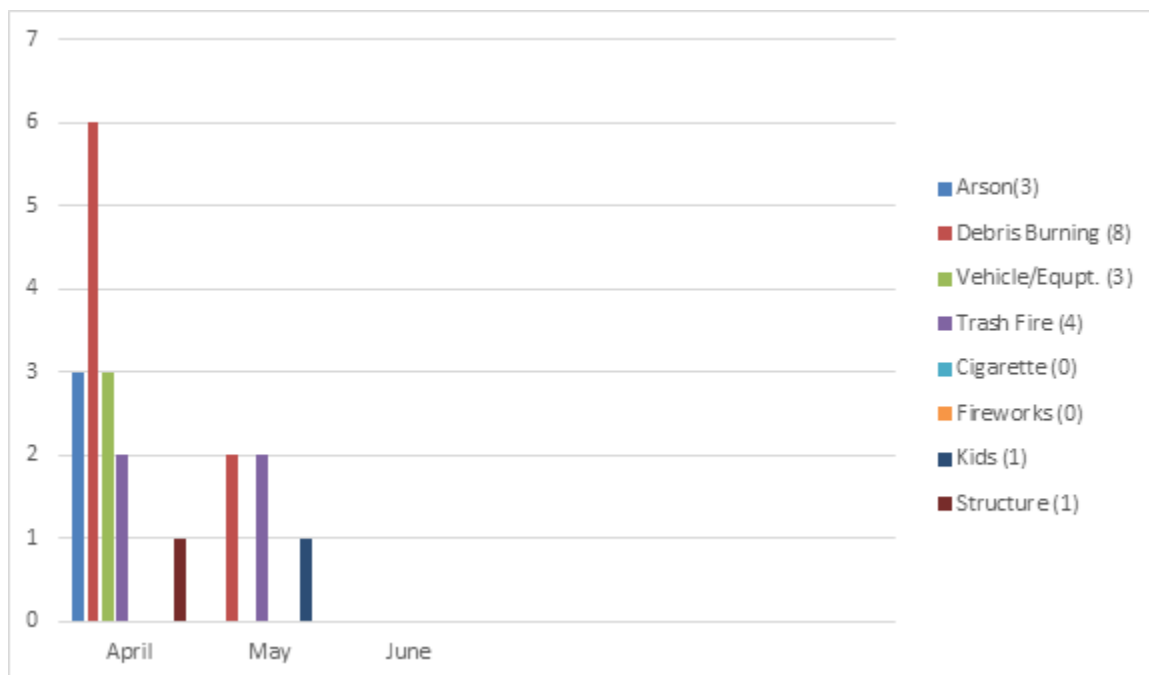


Figure 1. Fire Investigations completed for the months April to June 2023. Total number 20.

Fuels

The Fuels Management Program is currently evaluating previous prescribed fire units within the Chuska Mountains and the Defiance Plateau. The Berland Lake Prescribed Fire and Milkwater Prescribed Fire are two (2) of several burns that are in consideration of further burning, based on fuels loading and conditions within sites.

Fuels staff are compiling the fuel loading data and preparing a scope of work to conduct a silvicultural prescription, biological assessment, and cultural resource contract activities within the 2024. The results of the contract activities will assist the Fuels Management Program with the development of Prescribed Fire Burn Plans for the units which will include a combination of mechanical treatments, pile burning, and broadcast burning of natural and activity fuel loadings.

The Fuels Management Program developed a Fuels Mitigation Plan template, that includes 18 elements, for the Eastern Navajo Agency which can be used for all Chapters and Communities within the boundaries of the Eastern Navajo Agency. The Fuels Mitigation Plan will include fuels treatment specifications within approved homesite leases under the “Firewise” guidelines. The Mitigation Plan will outline implementation guidelines for the removal of trees and shrubs around homes and structures to reduce fuel loadings and protect homes in the event of a catastrophic wildfire.

Dispatch & Emergency Firefighter Program

Local Fires:

Total Fires for 3rd quarter = 52

YTD Fires = 57

Total Acres for 3rd quarter = 66.4

YTD Acres = 68

Four (4) Support Requests:

One (1) - Type 6 Engine, Shivwits Severity (BIA), UT

One (1) - Fire Investigator, Western Region Severity (BIA), AZ

One (1) - Type 2 Initial Attack Crew, Comanche Fire (Forest Service), NM

One (1) - Fire Suppression Module and two (2) - Type 6 Engines, Canyon De Chelly Fire (National Park Service), AZ

Aviation

The Navajo Heli tack Crew completed the recurrent refresher training in April 2023, in Fort Defiance, AZ.

The Navajo Region Heli tack commenced its annual helicopter contract on May 1, 2023. With a total crew of seven crewmembers and detailed helicopter managers, the Aviation crew are now available to provide initial attack support for local fires within the Navajo Region and neighboring agencies.

The Navajo Heli tack Crew Supervisor had retired from government service after 35 years with BIA, Branch of Fire Management in April 2023.

Various crew members attended local and interagency training courses throughout the Spring of 2023, which included chainsaw certification, helicopter manager, and taskforce leadership courses.

On Tuesday, May 16, 2023, the Navajo Region Helitack Crew responded to a wildland fire seven (7) miles east of Black Mesa Chapter House. The fire was caused by lightning from previous thunderstorms and was one-tenth of an acre; helicopter N950FS supported with water bucket.

On May 26, 2023, Navajo Region Helitack completed their Helibase Review by the National BIA Aviation Management. The review had minor discrepancies pertaining to documentation but were mitigated once identified.

An External Cargo Load training (A 219) was conducted on May 31, 2023, and several staff from various sections were certified to send and receive external cargo from remote helispots while on fire assignments.

One (1) Helitack crewmember is on fire assignment with the Navajo Scouts at the Comanche Fire in New Mexico, working as Crew boss Trainee.

Shiprock Engines

Shiprock fire staff continue to respond to local fires within the Shiprock Agency, to date, there has been 48 fires, with all but one (1) being human caused. Sources of ignition include field and irrigation burns that got away, trash burning, and one (1) lightning caused fire along the San Juan River. Navajo Nation Fire Department, Shiprock District assisted with most fires, supporting with water and structure protection.

Shiprock Fire Operations Specialist (FOS) hosted a yearly meeting with the local fire cooperators in the northern area of the Navajo Nation at the BIA office complex in Shiprock, NM. In attendance were the Regional Fire Management Officer (RFMO), Regional Fire Prevention, Regional Fuels Specialist, Shiprock Engine Boss (ENGB), Wildland Fire Coordinator from San Juan County Fire Department, two (2) firefighters from the Navajo Nation Fire Department and one (1) law enforcement officer from the Navajo Nation Department of Forestry. The meeting was conducted as a meet a greet with cooperators that assist one another during Shiprock fire season. Following the meeting, the Navajo Region Fire staff and Navajo Nation Fire Department staff met with Shiprock Chapter Manager to discuss and exchange information regarding fire responses and potential evacuation centers.

Shiprock Fire Operations Specialist assists and reported to Window Rock airport to assist with management of helicopter reports to the Window Rock airport to fill-in as the Helicopter Manager for the Aviation crew.

Shiprock resources continue to patrol the Shiprock Agency, including the chapters of Upper Fruitland, Nenahnezad, San Juan, and Cudei to provide presence and fire response, if needed.

Fort Defiance Engines

For Defiance Engine Section continues to maintain their work duties and remain prepared for initial attack response. The section also continues to improve the crew cohesion, physical fitness trainings to ensure the personnel are ready physical and mentally for any arduous work.

The Fort Defiance Engine Section coordinated and conducted various trainings for the operations staff of the Navajo Region Branch of Fire Management staff that included an annual refresher training (RT 130), Portable Pumps and Water Use (S 211), Driving for the Fire Service (BI 300) and Basic Wildland Fire Training (S 130/190) for new hires and rookies.

One (1) Fort Defiance Engine Boss went to the Arizona Wildfire Academy in Prescott, AZ for the L-280 Followership to Leadership training and another to the Engine Operator (ENOP) training in Albuquerque, NM.

One (1) engine boss attended the S-330 Taskforce/ Strike team Leader course held in Fort Defiance Fire Management. The course develops personnel to direct a combination of fire resources to work cohesively to safely meet objectives on a wildland fire or all hazard incidents.

Engine E-3661 is currently assigned to the Southern Piute Reservation Agency. The assignment was to cover the area due to fire weather for the area and the agency was lacking resources for the weekend.

The Fort Defiance Engine crew assisted with S-212 chainsaw refresher course in Summit and Sawmill area. The project plan was to cut the right of way path for the Navajo Tribal Forestry and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTU).

Fire response has increased for the year, so the program continues to prepare for expedient fire response.

Navajo Hotshots

The Navajo Hotshot Superintendent has successfully filled the Assistant Hotshot Superintendent and Squad Leader positions with detailers for the 2023 fire season. The detailers started with the crew on May 22, 2023, and have completed critical training. The Navajo Hotshot Superintendent has reached out to other BIA Wildfire Management agencies to fill other vacant crewmember positions on the Hotshot Crew while working with Human Resources for vacant positions to be filled. Currently, there are eight (8) vacancies to fill.

Currently, the Navajo Hotshot Superintendent and crewmembers are assisting and continue to support the Navajo Region Branch of Fire Management with wildfire training courses and wildfire suppression resources.

Operation and Administration

The Navajo Region Branch of Fire Management have successfully filled the Assistant Support Administrator position with a local tribal member.

The Navajo Region Fire Management Officer continues to support fire supervisors with the best tools possible to develop leadership, supervision and excellent work ethics to provide to their staff.

BRANCH OF ENGINEERING

Water Resources

Water Management, Planning & Pre-Development Program:

The BIA, NRO Branch of Engineering (BOE) continues to coordinate with the Navajo Nation Water Management Branch (NNWMB) in reviewing projects federally funded in prior years. BOE is providing two (2) trainings; Basic Water Rescue and Wilderness First Aid to the NNWMB for the Summer of 2023 to assist the NNWMB staff for field work for the funded Navajo Nation Lake Capacity Project. This project will allow NNWMB to scan data on the Navajo Nation Lakes to determine their capacity of water.

P.L. 111-11 Navajo San Juan Water Settlement Projects:

Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation (F-C) Project:

1. Fruitland Diversion and Fish Weir project, a replacement of the canal headworks, construction of a new diversion dam, and fish weir, will be advertised through a bid process on June 23, 2023, by the Navajo Nation. The deadline for the requested information will be an 8-weeks process and completed by August 12, 2023. Once completed, the Navajo Nation will review the cost estimate and determine if additional funding is needed due to the increased inflation, rise in material supplies and labor cost. The NRO BOE appropriated all Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation Settlement funds to the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation will seek additional funding internally, if needed. The estimated start date for this project will begin on November 1, 2023, and construct during the off-irrigation season only.

Hogback-Cudei Irrigation (H-C) Projects:

1. Hogback Canal Steel Siphon is a replacement of a steel siphon and flume project. The Navajo Nation will be developing a bid packet to advertise the project in August 2023. The estimated start date for this project is November 2023.
2. Eagle Nest Siphon Cleaning and Inlet Safety Project is complete. Final Inspection Walk Through was conducted on June 15, 2023.
3. Canal Lining Project, a replacement project of damage canal lining in areas along the Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Canals. The Navajo Nation is developing a bid packet for advertisement to start in November 2023.

Conjunctive Groundwater Use Wells (CGW) Projects:

1. Tse Bonito Water Line Extension Project, a feasibility cost-share project with the Indian Health Service (IHS) will be completed by December 31, 2023. IHS will submit closing documentation by November 2023 with the final deliverable.
2. Chichiltah-Vanderwagon Design Project, the Navajo Nation's contractor, SMA & Associates continues to collect data for the drilling of two (2) water wells. This data collection will determine if there is a reliable water source for this project.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):

On May 31, 2023, all ARPA funds were under contract to purchase and deliver pallets of water bottles to the Navajo Nation Chapters. All funds were expended.

Safety of Dams (SOD)

The Tohajiilee Dam rehabilitation project construction is ongoing with no major concerns for safety currently. Current construction activities are continuing with the spillway excavation and material processing, backfill of the High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe, continue filter excavation and installation, and the Continental Divide Electric Coop preparing for their line relocation. The estimated project completion date is August 2023.

The monthly BIA Lakewood Central Office, Region SOD and Tribal staff Early Warning System (EWS) Working Group meetings were held this quarter. General topics covered were upcoming field work priorities; EWS Training needs such as online training on website, alarms, videos on training dashboard; future meeting agenda items; and future meetings scheduling.

The BIA Lakewood Central Office SOD, Engineering consultant and the NRO SOD completed the Navajo Nation Dams Hydrology/Hydraulics, and Emergency Action Plans updates and Tabletop Exercises. The completed Navajo Nation Dams Emergency Action Plans certification signatures were complete.

The Navajo Nation dams monitoring, and visual reports were reviewed this quarter as submitted by the Navajo Nation SOD program.

The Navajo Nation Dams EWS satellite upgrades work is in progress. Additional work was completed in April and May 2023. The regular Navajo Nation Dams EWS maintenance work is in progress.

The Hazard Classification studies for the selected ten (10) Navajo Nation dams were completed in May 2023 for possible inclusion into the BIA SOD inventory. Field investigations were completed at Kaibeto, Tonalea, Tuba City, Mexican Water, Lukachukai, Chinle – Nazlina, Tohatchi, and Lake Valley.

The Lakewood Dam Tender virtual training was completed on May 25, 2023.

The Many Farms and Cutter Dams periodic field exams were completed April 26 and 27, 2023. The topographic surveys and dam crest settlement survey monuments are being placed.

The Blue Canyon Dam Comprehensive Review (CR) will be done in conjunction with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). The initial meeting occurred on April 3, 2023. The site visit exam was on May 10, 2023. The Potential Failure Modes and Risk Analysis (PFMRA) workshop is scheduled for June 20-22, 2023, at the BOR Lakewood, CO Office, Technical Service Center (TSC).

The status of Charley Day Spring Dam to remain a high hazard classification additional assessment is being done with the BOR as part of the CR process. The Project Management Plan (PMP) Scope of Work is being reviewed and work will begin after approval.

An Emergency Action Plan Response Level 1 was initiated for the Many Farms Dam by the BIA NRO on April 27, 2023, due to seepage through the spillway. This action was taken a precautionary measure to draw down the reservoir to prevent any major damage underneath the spillway.

Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP)

The BIA NIIP Office continues to work on the development of the new Records Inventory File System for the NIIP Office. The objective of this project is to provide a modern and efficient filing system for all BIA NIIP employees. In April 2023, our office successfully hired and placed a new temporary/contract employee who is currently assisting our office with this records project.

The BIA NIIP Office provided continuous assistance for the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) project with oversight and guidance of the farm activities within the project. Our continuous service for this project is essential to the progress and longevity of the NAPI Program.

The BIA NIIP Environmental-Technical Assistance contract, with Keller Blisner Engineering, was extended to September 30, 2023, with additional funding to complete annual tasks, reporting, and additional work assigned.

BRANCH OF REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Mineral Leasing

Oil and Gas Leases:

- Processed the 37½ State of Utah for Royalty and Royalty-In-Kind payment for the months of March, April, and May 2023. Letters were sent to the Navajo Nation Controller's office requesting to submit payments to the State of Utah office each month.
- Processed the Water Usage payment for January thru March 2023 from Chevron on the Navajo Nation Lease No. 14-20-0603-8669.
- Processed two (2) Application of Permit to Drill applications (APD) for Tacitus, LLC. The wells names are: Navajo Tribal U 7A and Navajo Tribal N 2. The APD was approved on April 25, 2023, and submitted to BLM for final approval.

Solid Minerals Leases:

- Continue to have monthly conference call meetings with Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Navajo Nation Solid Minerals, BLM and BIA staff on any updates or issue information on Navajo Mine (NTEC), Chevron and Peabody Western Coal Company (PWCC).
- Continue to have discussion on PWCC bond reduction with solicitors and Navajo Nation Minerals Department. BIA sent a follow-up letter on October 13, 2022, and March 30, 2023, to the Navajo Nation requesting comments and recommendation of the reduction of the Performance Bond requested by PWCC. Attended a site inspection on May 3 and 4, 2023, OSMRE had second Termination of 65 inspection (TOJ) within J19 and J21 and N9 pit locations for overview of the reclamation. Representatives from OSMRE, Navajo Nation, Hopi Agency, BLM (AZ State) attended the inspections.

BLM (AZ) Quarterly inspections schedule for:

- Kaibeto Resources Inc. The Sand and Gravel lease expired in 2018. Kaibeto Resources Inc. completed the reclamation on the gravel pit. The BLM (AZ) office, Navajo Nation and BIA representatives visited the site to review the reclamation that started on August 2022. The recent inspection on May 2, 2023, showed the vegetation has not been established on the ground.
- BIA/BLM attended the inspections at Teec Nos Pos gravel pit on May 4, 2023. The gravel pit is undisturbed (no activity), pending approval at Shiprock Agency, Branch of Real Estate Services (BRES).
- BIA/BLM attended the inspection at Wheatfield Gravel Pit on May 5, 2023. Reclamation at the location site was good.
- BIA/BLM attended the inspection at Nazlini (Emma Brown) gravel Pit on May 5, 2023. Reclamation at the location site was good.

Surface Leasing and Mortgage: Processed and recorded 65 old Residential Leases which are completed (reviewed, encoded, imaged, and typed legal descriptions) for Western Navajo Agency. Mixed 12 Residential Leases (new/old/modification and amendment) were reviewed and referenced to a Rights-of-Way (ROW) and X&Y monument. The indenture leases were processed with known coordinates; that had required and determined the correct section, township, and range for Western Navajo Agency.

Fort Defiance Housing Corporation – Fort Defiance Cooperative Units (Rio Puerco Phases A & B and Blackrock Acres) Reconstructed, reorganized, updated 55 individual lot folders and initiated spreadsheet in chronological order by lot numbers, current lot holder names, highlighted narrative on the transaction for Blackrock Acres. Provided work sessions with the Navajo Nation Land Department and Division of Natural Resources staff in reviewing, reading contract leases, interpreting text of lease, explaining aerial photography and plat drawings of leases located in the area, verifying the relationships of the lots, and updating information and verifying the status of the Fort Defiance Housing Corporations, and other related entities.

Kayenta Township – Master Housing Lease – onsite assessment made of existing street potholes, boarded homes, and number of homes were inserted on the Lot Layout map. Pictures were taken of the discrepancies. Completed/Encoded-Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Cameron Solar Lease and Sublease Lease. There was a setback due to discrepancies within the metes and bound description which was corrected by Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. Chinle Catholic Church- onsite field assessment was made to validate location of the long-standing encroachment on a house located within the church area, assessment continuing. Conducted an onsite field assessment to validate location of respective home-site lease, section, township, and range as current survey plat were inconsistency with visual features shown on aerial plot within Cowsprings area (Western Navajo Agency). Correction on the coordinates were made.

Rights-of-Way (ROW)

Tucson Electric Company (TEC):

- At the request from TEC, the courtesy reviews of TEC's draft ROW applications are ongoing as new discoveries are made along with technical assistance provided to TEC and their consultants. TEC is prioritizing the survey plats with allotments lands for landowner consent coordination. Several allotments drawings still require corrections, ongoing activity. Recent discovery of documents showing agreements made between TEC and the Navajo Nation are being reviewed. Decision of NEPA compliances is ongoing. TEC currently working with Navajo Nation and allottees for their landowner's consent.
- TEC's Grant of Easement will be expiring August 2023 and TEC has indicated they cannot meet the deadline for renewal and will request for an extension.

Tallgrass-Greenview Logistic Pipeline Project: Extensive pipeline project of clean energy proposed Northern New Mexico and Eastern Arizona.

- Environmental Impact Statement Activities: A TEAMS briefing of USDA/EPA Approved Biobased Lubricants was held on June 6, 2023.
- Alignment Corridor: Several alignment changes were made, latest one - avoiding most allotments near Tuba City.

Meetings: Last Friday of each month, a project status is reported through TEAMS video/teleconference.

NDOT ROW activities: Processing and preparing necessary compliances for a 21-mile Road Maintenance Project, N9402 – Lupton, Houck and Sanders, AZ. At the request of NDOT, BRES and Agency staff providing technical assistance clarifying Part 169 of the regulation and providing landowner information on allotments associated with project.

Emery Telecommunications & Video Inc: Broadband Project Mexican Hat, Utah - Kayenta, Arizona – Navajo Mountain, Arizona.

- ROW Activities: ROW application was reviewed and returned as incomplete status. RES staff met with EMERY and provided technical guidance with their application. Application is currently being revised to comply with 25 CFR Part 169.

Hopi Telecommunications:

- Broadband Project: Along AZ Hwy 264, beginning from Hoteville, Arizona to Tuba City, Arizona.
- ROW Activities: TEAMS Meeting was held, and RES staff explained the ROW process. HOPI Telcom working and negotiating with Navajo Nation for landowner's consent.

BIA Branch of Transportation (BOT): All Public Dirt Roads Maintenance by BIA – Deficient of ROW Easements; AZ, NM & UT. RES will inform BOT in writing ROW needs to be acquired for all public roads BOT plans to continue Road Maintenance.

Administrative Support: Ongoing Technical Assistance is provided to all facets of the public organizations, companies, and governments. An outreach to better understand the Regulation 25 CFR Part 169 ROW process is offered continuously. Three (3) ROW trainings have been given within the past three (3) months. More and more are requesting training for fall and winter seasons.

Cadastral Survey & Unresolved Rights: Consultations continue with BLM State Offices (AZ, NM & UT) and Navajo Nation Land Department (NLD) on all approved, on-going, and pending projects. Various research continued with agencies on land status, boundary issues, and field inspections on Navajo Tribal Trust & Allotted lands and BIA Administrative Reserve Areas.

- New Approved surveys: Two (2)
- New Survey Requests: Six (6)
- Final Field Inspections: Four (4); and
- Completed Cases: One (1). NM-BLM has new Modifications on Funding for Ft. Wingate Parcels.

There were two (2) conference calls held with AZ & UT State Offices, for updates, budget, new priorities, and boundary issues. IPACs: Processed 12 payments to AZ/NM/UT State Offices – BLM, for cadastral survey services. Division Land Title and Records (DLTR) for Recording Cadastral Surveys: Completed 25 of 43 townships for DLTR. Four (4) Inspections on possible trespasses within Eastern Navajo Agency and Fort Defiance Agency and final reports completed. Completed review of 124 letters of 148 letters on Office of Solicitor and Indian Land Consolidation Act Project Files for rejections due to duplications.

School Impact Statements – Verifications on Tribal Trust and Allotted lands:

- Gallup McKinley County School District: Completed review of all new land status verifications across 34 Navajo Chapters, total of 5,182 students and recommended for final review and approval.
- Land Boundary Issues: Reviewed 3 sites on Navajo families disputing various boundaries. Potential trespass site inspection conducted on June 15, 2023, across one allotment within Ojo Encino & Torreon areas (Eastern Navajo Agency).

- T20N, R8W, Pueblo Pintado, NM: Resurvey issues on boundaries on allotments and Navajo Tribal Fee lands after new cadastral survey was conducted of the whole township where some owners gained or loss acreages.

Acquisition and Disposal (A&D): Gift Deeds: Consultations: 13; Allotments: 17

Fort Wingate Legislation: P.L. 114-328:

- Section 2829F Return of Certain Lands at Fort Wingate New Mexico to Original Inhabitants. Legislative acquisition. Total acreage 1700.53 acres more or less; completed: 6 Parcels, Patent recorded. Continuing Administrative Field research to identify boundaries. Collaborating with New Mexico BLM to prioritize boundary identification project. Subsequently, fieldwork planning in collaboration with Department of the Army. Discussion continues with Department of the Army on two (2) parcels previously conveyed by PLO; preparation of Patent on said parcels in process. Research of parcel boundaries by request of New Mexico Department of Transportation for upcoming road work. Findings of the research, road work is in an area on parcel returned to Pueblo of Zuni and not Navajo Nation, respectively. Continued collaboration with New Mexico Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of the Army in hope of initiating discussion with Navajo Nation for necessary collaborative action for active Flood Cleanup along certain parcel. Meetings with Department of the Army to discuss priorities and ongoing projects of Fort Wingate Army Depot.
- Field: BLM Cadastral: Request assessment for boundary identification pursuant to P.L. 114-328, Section 2829F. Preliminary assessment of certain parcels to identify boundaries has begun. Met with NM BLM to give objective of priority project.

10 Allotments: Pending land sale transactions. The real property in these sale transactions have been identified as Indian Allotments (IA) whereby the Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, a federal recognized tribe negotiated acquisitions of the parcels of allotments from Original Allottees and/or their respective heirs. Final Decisions made. Disbursement process is currently ongoing; disbursement request initiated with one pending disbursement. Request for Re-Opening of Probate also made on one transaction: Re-Opening completed. Deed recorded. Disbursement pending. In the interim, Realty Specialist has been available by phone (conference) to speak to Landowner/Heir to answer questions regarding transaction.

Agency Offices

Chinle Agency:

Navajo Nation Approved Leases Submitted for Recording: 26; Homesite Leases Received: 33; Homesite Leases Recorded: 26; Mutual Terminations Received: 3; Title Status Reports: 2; Special Projects: 55 WNA homesite leases approved.

Western Navajo Agency:

Navajo Nation Approved Leases Submitted for Recording: 5; Homesite Leases Received: 5; Homesite Leases Recorded: 2; Business Site Lease: Received 2 business site leases for recording; Title Status Reports: 2.

Fort Defiance Agency:**ROW:**

- Land Index, Title Status, and Name and Address Reports provided to NDOT for 27 allotments for proposed N9402 road ROW project within the Houck and Lupton Chapters. Technical assistance provided to ROW Agent on updated consent forms.
- Navajo Tribal Utility Authority proposed ROW projects:
- Austin A. Sam power line extension crossing tribal trust and allotment 310109 located in Houck, Arizona. Tribal approval received. ROW grant is being prepared for final review and approval.
- Dilkon Pass Booster Station and Water Line Replacement - Proposed project to upgrade existing water line in increase carrying capacity to serve new hospital and to add new booster station and check valve. Project pending tribal approval.

Navajo Nation Approved Leases Submitted for Recording: Homesite Leases Received: 34; Homesite Leases Recorded: 16; Mutual Terminations Received: 22

Continue to provide technical assistance to Navajo Land Department (NLD) Homesite Lease Section regarding 415(a) leases (BIA approved) and 415(e) leases (Navajo Nation General Leasing Regulations 2013). Continue to provide technical assistance to Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation by researching and providing copies of approved leases.

Residential Leases:

- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners and applicants regarding the residential leases process, land status, individual/tribal interest report and location maps of allotments.
- Site inspection conducted on a proposed agricultural field within Allotment 310168 Houck Chapter. Due to a misunderstanding, a dispute resulted by individuals living on the allotment near the field. All individuals were updated and are now in the process of obtaining residential leases and an agricultural lease.
- Site inspection conducted on proposed residential lease within Allotment 310146 Houck Chapter located north of Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) Sun Valley Subdivision. Existing access road to allotment blocked by fencing around the subdivision. A meeting will be scheduled with NHA to address the access road into the allotment.

Title Status Reports: Requests for certified title status report for mortgage purposes submitted for two (2) lessees within the Teesto and Red Lake Chapters.

Special Projects:

- ROW training provided to Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Electric Planning Section on processing rights of way crossing Indian Allotments. Updated forms provided for their use.
- Participated in work sessions with BIA Region and Agency offices on updating residential leasing forms: application, consent, lease, standard operating procedures, and definitions of terms to ensure processing of residential leasing is consistent throughout Navajo Region.

- At the request of the Lupton Chapter Grazing Official, provided a presentation on Allotments – Land Uses, Processes and Regulations to Lupton Chapter community members.
- Continue to provide land status to Lupton, Houck, and Indian Wells Chapters on proposed homesite leases. This is to ensure applicants requesting for homesite or residential leases are processed by the correct entity, whether it be NLD or BIA Agency office.
- Window Rock Unified School District No. 8 Superintendent requested historic documents for site of proposed new athletic complex. Research and documentation provided to the Superintendent's office.
- Participated in round table discussions with Division of Natural Resources, NLD, General Land Development Department, NHA, and BIA Regional and Agency offices regarding lessees within existing NHA subdivisions who want to sell, assign, or renovate homes. Existing master leases and a proposed new lease under the Navajo Nation General Leasing Regulations of 2013 are being reviewed to address these issues and other issues such as access roads. BIA provided recommendations on language within the proposed new lease.
- General Land Development Department requested clarification on questions brought up during a ROW training on federal funding of projects, Indian Health Service (IHS) applying for right of way on behalf of the Navajo Nation, and maps and legal descriptions provided under Tribal Authorization Access (TAA). BIA provided clarification.

Pending with the Navajo Nation: Navajo Generating Station (NGS) ROW Applications. Awaiting a response from the Navajo Nation regarding the Secretarial Waiver and whether there had been any progress in revising the ROW instruments to comport with the various waivers granted or declined.

Shiprock Agency:

ROW:

- Bureau of Reclamation, Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Reach 4A Water Transmission Pipeline - Grant of Easement and Temporary Construction Easement approved April 25, 2023.
- Bureau of Reclamation, Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Reach 4B Water Transmission Pipeline - Grant of Easement for ROW and Temporary Construction Easement; and Temporary Construction Easement for Dewater Discharge Area approved April 26, 2023.
- TAA – participated in meeting with Navajo Nation General Leasing and Development Department regarding recording of TAA.

Leasing:

- Business Lease No. SR-03-180 Frank's Grocery Business Lease (Teecnospos, Arizona). Issued show clause letter to Lessee advising default of lease provisions including rent owed to the Navajo Nation. The letter affords the Lessee the opportunity to correct the default identified; if not corrected the Lease moves forward for cancellation. Lessee provided letter advising he does not dispute the cancellation due to personal reasons.

- Business Lease No. SR-01-168 Tommy C. Begaye. Provided summary on status of Lease for response to Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton inquiry. Lessee is deceased, Lease is pending probate of leasehold interest.

Navajo Nation Approved 415(e) Leases

- Homesite Leases: Received for recording April 25, 2023 - 62; Pending Encoding in TAAMS (Calculation of Acres Affecting 2 Sections) - 6; Recorded – 45; Pending System Approval in TAAMS - 9
- Navajo Nation Business Lease No. NNSR-08-0013 Tse Bit Ai Propane – lease assignment submitted to BIA Land Titles and Records for recording.
- Participated in meetings held May 25 and June regarding NHA Master Leases, Conveyance & Partial Assignments and issues raised by homeowners wishing to sell, assign or renovate their homes. BIA provided comment on latest draft NHA Master Lease.
- Continued support to NLD, Shiprock Land Office and BIA Agency BRES staff on various issues. Several questions raised by NLD revolve around either Navajo Nation or off-reservation court orders. Recommended to NLD to have their staff attorney review the court documents.

Sand and Gravel:

- Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA) S-Hill – change in management of NECA caused bonds previously issued to be no longer in effect (NECA S-Hill); and inability for NECA to provide bond for pending sand and gravel lease (NECA Tecnospos Site). Bonds for both sites received June 1, 2023.
- San Juan Sand and Gravel, LLC (SJS&G) – San Juan Chapter Pit: pending approval of mining and reclamation plans; and recommendation of bond amount by BLM; and environment assessment pending review. BLM contact information provided to SJS&G; as well as SJS&G contact information provided to BLM. June 5, 2023, conference call with San Juan Sand and Gravel, LLC, Council Delegate Rickie Nez and BIA NRO / Shiprock Agency regarding proposed sand and gravel lease. SJS&G advised to contact BLM to address comments previously provided by BLM. BLM contact information provided to SJS&G as well as SJS&G contact information provided to BLM. Council Delegate Rickie Nez raised concerns with individuals opposing proposed sand and gravel lease. Recommendation to meet with chapter to educate chapter members on project. Project cannot move forward until such time SJS&G addresses issues with reclamation and mining plan. BIA will conduct cursory review of environmental assessment; final review will be made upon receipt of approved reclamation and mining plans.

Land Status Requests:

- IHS Office of Environmental Health Project No. Project NA-22-XX7, Hogback Deadman's-South Wash Waterline – provided uncertified Title Status Report for tract affecting Sections 5, 7, 16, 17, 18, 21 and 22 T29N, R17W.
- Bureau of Reclamation - provided uncertified Title Status Reports for T29N, R15-17W.
- Navajo Power – provided title status reports for Cameron Solar Project and for Hogback Solar Project.

- McCracken Mesa Extension – conducting research on claims of the family of the late Espie Jones asserting parts of McCracken Mesa was given to the late Espie Jones. This has been a long-standing issue. Families residing on McCracken Mesa Extension were advised by Aneth Chapter Officials that the wife of the late Espie Jones contacted Navajo Nation President's Office regarding their claims. In preparation for possible contact by the OPVP requests for research submitted to Navajo Region BILS; and NRO BRES. Hopes are to resolve the issue.
- Northwest Subdivision – Homesite lessee complaint on neighboring lot. Complaints of drug use and possible sale. Lessee request to cancel homesite lease on neighboring lot. While the lease can be cancelled through appropriate processes by the Navajo Nation and BIA. The overlying issue is a civil matter. Pending field investigation and recommendation from NLD to cancel.

BRANCH OF PROBATE

The Branch of Probate and Estate Services prepares cases for individual Indians that hold trust assets by completing the family history of the decedent and compiling all documents required by the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA). Research is completed by contacting the family members of the decedent by means of home visits, searching internet, telephone interviews, writing letters and office visits. The majority of family research work is in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Vital Records Office.

During the Summer Quarter, there were 113 cases prepared and submitted to OHA for adjudication, of those, thirty-seven (37) were by Eastern Navajo Agency, fifty-eight (58) were by Fort Defiance Agency, fourteen (14) were by Shiprock Agency and four (4) were by Western Navajo Agency.

In this quarter there was a total of 281 new deaths reported, with 213 resulting in new cases and 68 cases being researched for trust assets. Most cases were reported by the Eastern Navajo Agency (119) and the Fort Defiance Agency (106).

We were able to have 91 cases adjudicated this quarter, which are currently being processed to disburse the trust assets. As of the end of this quarter, we have a total of 7,779 active cases being processed at some level. Currently, there are 217 cases eligible for closure, of those, 209 have finished the disbursement of the trust property (96.31%) and 169 have completed the disbursement of the trust personalty (86.22%).

INDIAN SERVICES

BRANCH OF INDIAN SELF DETERMINATION

The BIA NRO Branch of Indian Self-Determination (ISD) continues to work with Navajo Nation's 22 non-construction Contracts, seven Subpart J Construction Contracts and five other Tribal Organizations (TO) under P.L. 93-638. This quarter three (3) TO submitted Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and School Year 2023-2024 Successor Annual Funding Agreement proposals to continue contracting services under a P.L. 93-638 Contract; and the BIA NRO reviewed the

proposals, in accordance with 25 CFR Part 900 and provided its review response to the TO. The BIA NRO distributed the final FY 2023 funding received through Congressional Appropriations to all approved P.L. 93-638 Contracts. In addition, the funding distribution also included Calendar Year (CY) 2022 Contract Support Cost additional need funding, one-time ARPA funding and one-time funding for projects to the Navajo Nation and TO's P.L. 93-638 Contracts, see Table 1. All contractors provide services to communities and other contractual activities, in accordance with their SOW and budgets. All funds awarded entirely benefit the Navajo Nation.

Table 1 – P.L. 93-638 Contracts Funding Allocations

The Navajo Nation	Programs	Amount
A18AV00235	Adult Correction Program	\$624,029.00
A18AV00236	Juvenile Correction Program	\$279,408.00
A18AV00262	Forestry Management Program	\$9,080.00
A19AV00376	Indian Child Welfare Act Program	\$3,990.00
A20AV00898	Subpart J Construction Many Farms School 20% Design	\$586,073.55
A21AV00001	Natural Heritage Program	\$92,107.48
A21AV00002	Fish & Wildlife Program	\$449,953.00
A21AV00003	Social Services-(SS) Depart. Family Services	\$230,717.53
A21AV00004	Johnson O'Malley	\$3,518,017.00
A21AV00140	Law Enforcement -Criminal Investigations	\$384,970.00
A21AV00186	Law Enforcement-Patrol Services	\$1,879,563.00
A21AV00384	SS-Family Assistance Services and Assistance	\$888,245.97
A22AV00148	Higher Education Program	\$9,616,723.00
A22AV00149	Environmental Archaeological Non-Roads	\$31,664.24
A22AV00151	Tribal Courts Program	\$736,723.00
A22AV00381	Safety of Dams Program	\$750,169.00
A23AV00265	Adult Correction Program	\$497,297.00
A23AV00267	Juvenile Correction Program	\$3,235,048.00
A23AV00366	Water Development Program	\$742,293.86
A23AV00367	Forestry Management Program	\$216,824.00
A23AV00611	Subpart J Construction – Fish Hatchery Rehabilitation	\$3,000,015.00
	Sub-Total	\$27,772,911.63
Tribal Organizations		Amount
A19AV00984	Dine Bi Olta School Board Association, Inc.	\$84,200.00
A21AV00158	NAPI – NIIP Irrigation Operation & Maintenance, On-Farm Development, Agricultural Testing Research Lab & Water Quality Monitoring	\$5,408,172.00
A21AV00486	Rock Point Community School	\$259,171.00
A16AV00510	NECA – Project N2007	\$999,151.85
	Sub-Total	\$6,750,694.85
	GRAND TOTAL	\$34,523,606.48

Awarding Official's Technical Representative's (AOTR) Quarterly Activities provide programmatic and administrative support as trained/designated by the Awarding Official's for a specific P.L. 93-638 Contracts.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Forestry Management Program, Contract No. A18AV00262 and Contract No. A23AV00367:

The BIA NRO Branch of Forestry continues to process multiple timber cutting permits received from the Navajo Forestry Department (NFD). The primary requests are for permits associated with infrastructure projects done within the Navajo Nation by their water or utility authorities. This quarter 53 permit packets were received for review and approval. All permit packets are approved and signed by the BIA NRO Regional Director or his designated alternate. The approved permits are returned to NFD with a reminder to collect payment from the permittee before any harvesting activities commence and to administer per the special provisions. Receipt(s) for payment are used to verify the payment was made to the Navajo Nation through direct payment procedures, which is recorded in the Trust Asset Accounting Management System for each permit issued.

The BIA NRO's June 7, 2023, dated letter requested NFD to provide information related to the Oak Ridge Timber Sale area to identify the location of the 4,000 acres, the NFD is planning to prepare, while the remaining 10,495 acres will be prepared for sale by the BIA NRO. The reason is explicitly stated within the current Statement of Work of the P. L. 93-638 Contract, the NFD would prepare only 4,000 acres of the scheduled 14,495-acre Oak Ridge Timber Sale area during CY 2023. Also, BIA NRO Branch of Forestry's requested the Geographic Information System (GIS) data, listings of the forest compartments, stands, access roads for the sale area, stand exam data, and all electronic or hardcopy maps of the sale area. A response from the Navajo Nation's NFD is still pending.

BIA NRO sent formal correspondence, letter dated April 24, 2023, to NFD through BIA NRO ISD to request an update on the Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) project. The reason for the request is NFD was unresponsive to previous request, letter dated February 2, 2023. NFD responded in a letter dated May 11, 2023, requesting a meeting to discuss the CFI project and provided the original data sheets of completed plot packages with all data sheets. Although, no request for courtesy or field inspections was included, the BIA NRO assessed the raw data, so the field inspections could be scheduled and to coordinate the requested meeting. The assessment revealed additional items are needed before a formal inspection can occur, a follow up correspondence to NFD, to request these additional items. The request is for CFI plot photos in electronic format, which is stated within field manual, a list of the crew leader names to remove any assumption of who the crew leaders are, and color/pattern of flagging used by the field crews. The additional items were requested to be furnished to BIA NRO Branch of Forestry by July 11, 2023, or sooner. Additionally, the BIA NRO requested for a date, when NFD is available for a virtual meeting, to discuss the CFI project with BIA NRO and Branch of Forest Inventory and Planning staff. The response from NFD is pending, as of time of report.

The BIA, Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management requested for Greenhouse and Nursery data from Tribes to build a dashboard viewable in "ArcGIS online". The completed dashboard would then be available to other Natural Resources managers. A formal request letter

dated May 2, 2023, was provided to NFD to gather, and submit the data on Navajo Nation's Greenhouses and Nurseries to BIA NRO by May 10, 2023. A response from the NFD was not received and no information was forwarded.

A letter summarizing, the review of the Carbon Agreement for the Navajo Nation was finalized and provided to the Navajo Nation's Office of the President and Vice President on April 18, 2023, via hand delivery by BIA staff. The letter informed the Navajo Nation, the Attorney-Advisor's assessment is a "minor modifications to the Nation's forestry management plan(s) are required to make the Agreement consistent with said plan(s)" and the Agreement does not require Secretarial approval under Section 81. The letter also stated the modifications to the Navajo Nation's management plan(s) should not be cause for delay in the implementation or performance of the Agreement, provided any necessary modification(s) of the Navajo Nation's plan(s) is addressed and resolved within one calendar year of entering into the Agreement. Also, included with the letter were the National Policy Memo (Number: NPM-TRUS-47, Title: Carbon Sequestration Agreement Policy) dated November 4, 2022, and a word document, entitled Bureau of Indian Affairs Summary of Discrepancies between the California Air Resources Board's Compliance Offset Protocol and the Navajo Nations Ten-Year Forest Management Plan, which outlines the discrepancies between the California Air Resources Board's Compliance Offset Protocols and the Navajo Nations Ten-Year Forest Management Plan. The NFD Manager reported in email, dated June 13, 2023, the revisions are in progress and may be completed by the end of June 2023.

The Forest Management, Inventory and Planning (FMIP) program for the BIA NRO was assessed internally by the BIA NRO Foresters and by an onsite assessment team, comprised of staff from Central Office and other BIA regional offices on May 16 and 17, 2023. The FMIP's Internal Control Review (ICR) forms were compiled separately, one (1) for the BIA NRO and one (1) for the Navajo Nation. The ICR for BIA NRO was compiled based upon the best data available to BIA NRO staff along with the observations of the onsite assessment team. The NFD was unresponsive to BIA NRO's letter dated February 23, 2023, requesting NFD to complete and return the ICR form for submission on their behalf. However, a ICR form was compiled by BIA NRO on behalf of NFD using the best available information. Both ICR forms, the summary of the assessment team, and memo from the BIA NRO Regional Director certifying the assessment packet were forwarded to the Chief Forester, Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management on Friday, June 9, 2023.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Fish and Wildlife Program, Contract No. A16AV00335 and Contract No. A21AV00002 and Natural Heritage Program, Contract No. A16AV000368 and Contract No. A21AV00001:

The BIA NRO ISD and BNR plan to conduct CY 2023 Contract monitoring review of P.L. 93-638 Contract No. A16AV00335 and A21AV00002 for Fish and Wildlife Management Program and P.L. 93-638 Contract No. A16AV00368 and A21AV00001 for Natural Heritage Program in late October 2023 and will coordinate with the Navajo Nation's programs on the monitoring dates.

The Awarding Official recommended the Navajo Nation's Fish & Wildlife Program to spend the unobligated balance of federal funds in the amount of \$6,777,162.67 for Contract No. A16AV00335. The one-time funding is for the development of the Navajo Nation's Agriculture

Resource Management Plan (ARMP) with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Navajo Nation's Fish & Wildlife through P.L. 93-638 Contract will be preparing the ARMP with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to meet NEPA compliance for the approval of Navajo Grazing Permits.

The Navajo Nation's Fish and Wildlife Program received \$3,000,015.00 for upgrades to the Navajo Nation's Fish Hatchery in Toadlena, New Mexico under P.L. 93-638 Subpart J Construction Contract No. A23AV00611. The Navajo Nation's Fish Hatchery is the primary source for Rainbow Trout for recreational purposes on the Navajo Nation. The hatchery currently provides Rainbow Trout for recreational fishing at five (5) Navajo Nation lakes (Wheatfield, Tsaile, Asaayi, Cutter, Berland).

The Navajo Nation's P.L. 93-638 Natural Heritage Program accomplish the stated goals below despite the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- The Natural Heritage Program reviewed over 888 endangered, threaten, sensitive species monitoring.
- Completed 300.5 hours of BIOTICS databasing.
- Issued 1157 biological clearance forms.
- Reviewed 189 project review and 125-164 Project Review for compliance.
- Completed 375 data request to project sponsors.
- Conducted 22 biological resources surveys and inventories.

The Navajo Nation's P.L. 93-638 Fish and Wildlife Program accomplished the following goals:

- Raised a minimum of 30,000 Rainbow trout.
- Stock a minimum of 30,000 Rainbow trout.
- Survey 150 Creel, 4,000 sportsmen contacted, and 12 Educational outreaches conducted, investigate 100 wildlife violation.
- Manage big game, small game, furbearers, waterfowl, game birds, sport fishing and boating.
- Administer the sale of big game, small game, commercial trapping, game bird, fishing and boating permit sales. Authority to established fees delegated to the Fish and Wildlife by Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council Resolution RCJN-118-93.
- Conducted at least 12 Information and Educational activities.
- The Nation Nation's Fish and Wildlife's Climate Change Program (CCP) was awarded \$399,952 for the Climate Change Adaptation: Category 10 with the BIA Branch of Tribal Climate Resilience Awards Program. This category will help continue CCP's efforts by sponsoring implementation strategy project goals in accordance with the Navajo Nation's Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP). This category award will serve as the next step in addressing climate change effects by financially supporting CAP's implementation strategy goals. Once in place, the proposed plans and projects will allow the Navajo communities, Navajo Nation's Divisions, and other Navajo Nation organizations to start initiating implementation strategies across the Nation where negative impacts of climate change have hit hard. CCP will initially lead these efforts in the beginning and guide its process and progress as it becomes its own self-sustaining system.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Tribal (Census) Enrollment program Contract, A16AV00285:

On June 1, 2023, the AOTR completed the review of the Annual Narrative and SF-425 reports for Calendar Year 2022 period ending December 31, 2022. The review was sent to the BIA, Awarding Official, Self-Determination Office for further processing onto the Navajo Nation.

On May 22, 2023, the AOTR received the Navajo Tribal Enrollment data collection request, and the BIA has processed this request to Central Office for further processing.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Tribal Courts program, Contract A17AV00252:

On June 26, 2023, the AOTR completed the review of CY 2022 Annual Narrative and Federal Financial Reports (SF-425) period ending December 31, 2022. The review was sent to the BIA, Awarding Official, Self-Determination Office for further processing onto the Navajo Nation.

On April 27, 2023, the AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$188,975.00. These funds are made available pursuant to H.R. 2617 Public Law 117-328 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Higher Education, Contract A17AV00096:

On April 5, 2023, the AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$9,607,335.00. These funds are made available pursuant to H.R. 2617 Public Law 117-328 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

Pub. L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Forestry Management Program (FMP), Contract No. A18AV00262:

The BIA, Branch of Forestry continues to process multiple timber cutting permits that are received from the Navajo Forestry Management Program (FMP). The primary requests received are for permits associated with infrastructure projects being done within the Navajo Nation by their water or utility authorities. During this quarter, requests to review 9 permit packets was received from the Navajo Nation. The nine (9) permits were reviewed and forwarded for signature approval by the Regional Director. The approved permits were returned to the Branch of Forestry and forwarded to the Navajo Forestry Department to administer. This is an ongoing process between the BIA and FMP as a result of using BIA Form 5-5331, Timber Cutting Permit. This form captures all the information needed to properly encode all forest products harvested from the Navajo Nation's forestlands into the BIA's Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS). TAAMS is the Official System of Record for the BIA and supports the management of trust resources, management of trust title ownership, encumbrance, and land records through a centralized bureau-wide system. This coordinated task is a necessary component that provides the data to track the harvest of forest products that occurs on Tribal Trust lands.

The BIA, Branch of Forestry received response letter, dated March 6, 2023, from the Navajo Nation's regarding follow-up questions to the Calendar Year 2022 Annual Contract Monitoring Questionnaire for their P. L. 93-638 Contract No. A18AV00262, FMP. In the letter, the Navajo Nation responds to the BIA requests to 1) identify which projects have biological and archeological surveys, 2) identify which projects have National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance documents in place, 3) identify which projects require biological, archeological and NEPA compliance work and, 4) provide a copy of any drafted or approved

Silvicultural Prescriptions as an approved prescription is required for all forest treatments that affect the present and/or long-term character of a forest stand. In addition, the Navajo Nation provided a copy of the Navajo Forestlands Integrated Resources Management Plan, Programmatic Environmental Assessment. The FMP stated “No official letter and no copy of the PEA was sent from the consultant to the BIA, NRO Branch of Environmental Quality. An email requesting clarification on the review and approval process was sent to the BIA, NRO.” The BIA is currently in the process of reviewing the documents provided and will provide a summary of its findings to ensure these documents fulfill the conditions of the Annual Contract Monitoring.

In formal correspondence dated February 23, 2023, the Navajo Nation’s FMP was provided notice that the BIA, Central Office will be conducting an Internal Control Review and Assessment of Forest Management Inventories & Planning (FMI&P) in compliance with OMB Circular A-123 Management Responsibility for Internal Control for Fiscal Year 2023. For this assessment, the Navajo Region has been selected for an onsite assessment of the FMI&P program. This is per the BIA Director’s February 16, 2023, dated memorandum, in which the FMP was provided a copy of said memorandum. Also provided to the FMP is the BIA Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management’s (DFWFM) Internal Control Review (ICR) assessment form. The ICR assessment form is an Excel spreadsheet entitled “FY2023 Field Test Form, FMIP”. The form is to be completed by the Navajo Nation’s FMP Staff who are responsible for FMI&P activities on the Navajo Nation. The completed forms must be returned to BIA, Branch of Forestry by May 5, 2023, or sooner. The assessment team, comprised of staff from Central Office and the Branch of Forest Inventory and Planning, have reserved May 16 and 17, 2023, as initial days to conduct the onsite assessment. If additional days are necessary to complete the FMI&P assessment, the team will plan accordingly. The BIA, Branch of Forestry will continue to coordinate with the FMP and the BIA assessment team so that things are for review prior to the scheduled meeting dates.

Meetings between the BIA, Navajo Nation’s FMP staff, and Anew, the Navajo Nation’s Carbon Credits contractor, have been conducted to address the Carbon Credits Project which the Navajo Nation is involved in. This has been an ongoing project with the FMP since 2014. In email from the Navajo Nation’s Forest Manager dated July 29, 2022, BIA staff were requested to provide dates of availability to attend the “Carbon Credit Initiative Kick Off Meeting”. An email invite from the Forest Manager, dated October 11, 2022, was received for a meeting entitled “Carbon Offset Project Introductory Meeting” that was scheduled for October 13, 2022. This meeting was designed to be an introductory meeting for all involved with the project in determining the next steps.

However, email dated September 9, 2022, from the Navajo Nation’s Forest Manager requested that the BIA determine, pursuant to 25 USC §81 or other applicable law, if secretarial approval is or is not required for the Navajo Nation to register the project with the Air Resources Board (ARB) and participate in the California Cap and Trade Program. Because of this request, the BIA then requested from the Solicitor’s Office a review of all the documents provided by the Navajo Nation associated with the project to determine if federal approval of the Tribe’s participation in the Cap-and-Trade Program is required, or documentation from the U.S. Department of the Interior, BIA that federal approval is not required. This request was dated and forward to the Solicitor’s Office on October 12, 2022. Since that time, other events occurred in relation to the Carbon Credits Program.

The Solicitor's Office made requests for additional information, which were fulfilled by the BIA, so that an informed determination is made. A National Policy Memorandum (NPM) dated November 4, 2022, was issued (NPM-TRUS-47: Carbon Sequestration Agreement Policy) and defines BIA's role regarding existing or proposed carbon sequestration contracts or agreements between Tribes and non-governmental organization or other entities; describes guidance that BIA will provide to Tribes; and defines how the BIA will interpret carbon sequestration agreements in the fee-to-trust process. In past practice, the BIA issued letters confirming that federal approval under 25 U.S.C. Section 81 is not required because a carbon sequestration project does not create an encumbrance on Indian lands, nor does it give exclusive or proprietary control to a third party but there was no national policy directive in place prior to November 4, 2022. Another circumstance that took place during this time is that the BIA, Branch of Forestry sought assistance with this matter by contacting BIA's Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management (DFWFM) staff to review and provide recommendations on the matter. The DFWFM sought guidance from their Attorney – Adviser and his recommendation was to request for written confirmation, whether in the form of a letter or resolution supplementing the contract or an addendum to the contract, stating what the actual term for this project will be. Once this information regarding the term of the contract is reviewed to clarify this question, the DFWFM can then provide their assessment and recommendations to move forward. An official request is forthcoming.

HUMAN SERVICES

Government Performance Results Act (GPRA)

During this Fiscal Year 2023, the Navajo Nation set its annual target goal at 69% for Performance Measure 1811. This GPRA Performance is based on the individual strengths and needs that complements the individual's own efforts in attaining self-sufficiency through meaningful employment.

The GPRA established strategic planning, performance planning and performance reporting as a framework for agencies to communicate progress in achieving their mission. The GPRA reports continue to seek and establish the accountability of federal funds provided to tribes and programs. Timely submissions and accurate data that demonstrate improvements in the provision of services helps the government make a stronger case for potential increase in program funding and advocacy.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

The NRO continues to process ICWA Notices received by the State(s). For this Third Quarter, there were 121 ICWA notices received and processed by our office. These ICWA Notices provide notification a child has been taken into custody by the State and the tribe is being apprised of the proceedings to intervene.

The ICWA of 1978 is a federal law that governs the removal and out-of-home placement of American Indian children. The law was enacted after the Federal Government recognized that American Indian children were being removed from their homes and communities at a much higher rate than non-Native children.

Other activities

In addition, the Branch of Human Services continues to remain available for Technical Assistance when a request is received from the Navajo Nation. If there are any training requests from the Navajo Nation, they will be provided in accordance with the scope of work as contracted under the P.L. 93-638 for Social Services and the Indian Child Welfare Act Programs.

BRANCH OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Branch of Environmental Management (BEM) and the Branch of Environmental Quality Act Compliance (BEQACR) programs continue to work on environmental projects for the Navajo Nation.

Shiprock Administrative Reserve (SAR): BEM and Facility Management (FM) received funding for the remaining 46 buildings to conduct abatement and demolition work. The solicitation for potential vendors closed on June 12, 2023. BEM and FM are reviewing the proposal for work which will be completed by June 29, 2023.

Abandoned Uranium Mine: BEM reviewed the Federal Register March 29th notification on the Lukachuka Mountains Mining District, Cove, Navajo Nation, Arizona, proposed rule for comment on the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) National Priorities List (NPL) for this area. Comments related to the Cove Day School were submitted within this area and provided to the Environmental Protection Agency Region 9.

Sheep Dip Vat Project (SDV): BEM contractor has started the assessment and removal of the toxaphene contaminated soils at the former Toadlena SDV site located in the Chuska Mountains. The remedial work is being undertaken with the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) Waste Regulatory Department. Work started on June 19, 2023, and will continue for the next three (3) weeks or until the site is remediated and backfilled with clean soil.

Sanostee Land Transfer: BEM requested funding for the Environmental Site Assessment Phase 3 for remediation at the 17-acre site located in Sanostee, New Mexico. Funding was received and solicitation for proposal has been completed. BEM is reviewing the proposal, received from Acquisition, and is projected to complete the review by June 30, 2023.

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)-Drinking Water Highlights: BEM continues to conduct all required drinking water sampling and the data results for the BIE schools within Navajo Region. BEM follows the annual monitoring schedule provided by the regulatory agencies each year. There are drinking water chemical constituents that require annual monitoring and other constituents that are considered scheduled monitoring which vary from year-to-year.

For this Quarter, BEM completed the March, April, and May 2023 bacteriological analyses and submitted to NNEPA-Public Water Supervisions Systems (PWSSP) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region IX, Water Department on behalf of the BIE schools. All the data were absent of bacteria.

BEM works with the BIE Crownpoint Education Resource Center on five (5) BIE facilities requiring second quarter sampling for disinfection by-products. The five (5) listed BIE facilities change their water systems from groundwater to surface water in 2020. They are now receiving water from the Navajo Gallup Water supply Project, Cutter Lateral Water Transmission Pipe. This change in source water results in an increase of monitoring for Disinfection By-Product Rule, Lead and Copper.

BEM continues to provide technical assistance to BIE contractor, Benesch and Tribal One on the scheduled drinking water site assessments. Most of the documents consist of sampling records, drinking water operations permit(s), notice of violations, schedules with past primacy drinking water reports. Other documents such as construction records, as-builts and floor plans are referred to BIA NRO Facility Management.

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Highlights: There were no reports of overflows/lagoons requiring discharging at any other locations within the Navajo Region.

The BEQACR conducted NEPA analysis of the Environmental Assessment to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the following Fee-to-Trust applications submitted by Eastern Navajo Agency, Branch of Real Estate Services. These were for the Thoreau Chapter Property consisting of approximately 0.5 acres of undeveloped land; Thoreau (H&H Stone Tracks) Chapter Property; and Whitehorse Lake Chapter Property. BEQACR also requested Eastern Navajo Agency to submit concurrence from the Navajo Nation regarding the Biological Resources Compliance Form (BRCF) Section 7, as this is lacking and required by NEPA.

BEQACR completed a FONSI determination for Emery Telecommunications & Video that requested the approval of ROW from the BIA for construction and maintenance of a fiber optic utility line. The ROW will be used to install fiber optic conduit and cable within the Navajo Nation Reservation from Mexican Hat, Utah to Navajo Mountain, Utah passing through Kayenta, Arizona. This will provide fiber optic service to Monument Valley High School and Navajo Mountain High School, as well as elementary schools in these communities.

The DJR Company Exploration and Production, LLC requested from BIA to approve applications for a Permit to Drill (APD) and a ROW. The approval of these actions is being done in partnership with the BLM.

Continental Divide Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CDEC) is proposing to construct, operate, and maintain a power line and extension in the vicinity of Whitehorse Lake Chapter, McKinley County, New Mexico. The CDEC Cayaditto Distribution Line is a single phase 14.4/24.9 kilo volt line that would serve six (6) families in the Rincon Marquez community.

The Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) submitted a request for the approval of a ROW application to construct, operate, maintain, and in the future to replace the To'Hajiilee Water Supply Project. The line consists of a 10-inch water pipeline from Albuquerque to To'Hajiilee with a Terminal Facility to be located within the Cañoncito Band of Indians.

The Painted Desert Power, LLC (PDP) ROW application for two (2) ROWs. The first ROW is proposed for the construction of a 500-kilovolt (kV) electrical inter-tie (gen-tie) transmission line from the proposed Painted Desert Power Solar Project lease area to the nearby, existing Arizona Public Service (APS) Moenkopi Switchyard. The second ROW is proposed to improve and widen the existing BIA Route 6730 (BIA RT 6730), the primary access route to the proposed Painted Desert Power Solar Project lease area.

Tex-New Mex Pipeline ROW renewal by the Eastern Navajo Agency Branch of Real Estate Services. Since the renewal will be processed through a new ROW application, the office indicated an EA is the appropriate NEPA document for NEPA compliance.

Tucson Electric Power on the renewal of their 345kV transmission line ROW, which crosses the Navajo Nation. The office indicated an EA is the appropriate NEPA document for NEPA compliance.

For this quarter, BEQACR processed 45 Categorical Exclusions for housing needs and utility installation. These NEPA documents are critical for allowing the approval of home sites and the installation of utility lines for Navajo tribal members.

BEQACR processed 30 Cultural Resources Compliance Forms for the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department. These NEPA documents are critical for allowing the approval of home sites and the installation of utility lines for Navajo tribal members.

BEM continues to work on incoming environmental projects requested by the Navajo Nation that require Environmental Site Assessments for sampling and cleanup. Also, BEQACR provides technical assistance for determination of appropriate NEPA compliance to maintain the progress of these projects for the benefit of the Navajo Nation.

BRANCH OF SAFETY

FY 2023 Annual Workplace Inspection performance summary report at end of 3rd Quarter. Twenty-nine (29) assigned required inspection by Indian Affairs, Office of Facilities, Property and Safety Management, Division of Safety and Risk Management has rated Navajo Region at 88% Inspection Reports completed for BIA facilities or 23 out of 26. Two (2) remaining sites inspection in progress are at Eastern Navajo Agency and Fort Defiance Agency scheduled completion by end of July. Two (2) of three (3) Office of Justice System sites are rated at 67% completed, last remaining site left is not scheduled until August at Crownpoint. Goal to achieve overall 100% completion is projected by August 31, 2023. The Branch of Safety (BOS) is also working closely with Official-In-Charge as well, BIA Facility Managers scheduling corrective action through developing Abatement Plans.

BOS remained vigilant monitoring COVID-19 Community Transmission level trends by neighboring states counties published by-weekly from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service-Public Health Orders. BOS also released a visitor policy and protocol that took effect in January 2023, after careful review of the Department of Interior (DOI) Workplace Safety Plan, version 6.0, addressing if anyone have any of the CDC-recognized COVID-19 symptoms, they are not

permitted to enter building. Furthermore, if COVID-19 Community Level is in MEDIUM to LOW, individuals are not required to wear a mask but may do so if they choose. This coincided with Navajo Nation announcement through Public Health Order number 2023-001, "Lifting the Indoor Mask Mandate for the General Public and for all Business. To control the spread of COVID-19, masking and social distancing requirements depended on Community Level, if it's Substantial or HIGH, signs were appropriately posted at entrances to federal facilities occupied by BIA and Tribal programs, this was further stipulated with individual who are NOT fully vaccinated are also required to physically distance at least 6 feet from others while indoors.

BOS continues to provide technical support for other Branches within the Navajo Region. The BEM requested assistance for a remediation project in Western Navajo Agency at the Department of Transportation maintenance yard. BEM hired a contractor to excavate contaminated soils and BOS provided oversight to verify the contractor was exercising safety practices within the contract health and safety plan. BOS also approved the manifest certifying the material for transportation to a certified landfill. BOS also provided technical assistance to BEM in conducting road reconnaissance to the Toadlena Sheep Vat site. It was noted there are several locations on the road that will require road maintenance before hauling heavy equipment to the site for remedial activities.

BOS also provided technical support for the NRO FM at the Shiprock Agency building. Issues and concerns with ongoing HVAC system repair project where debris and dust particles remained after the project was recently completed. As a result, dust was reported settling on office work surfaces within the building wherein employees raised their concern of unsafe work environment. This eventually was reported to NOSHA (Navajo Occupational Safety and Health Administration) who recommended immediate resolution for a professional cleaning and sanitization. BOS assisted by providing background safety concerns and therefore, a contractor was selected to conduct appropriate cleaning services of the HVAC system. Thereafter, the agency building will be thoroughly cleaned to prepare the cooling system for the upcoming warm summer temperatures.

Throughout the 3rd quarter, the BOS has been disseminating weekly safety and health information geared toward increasing awareness for accident, injury, and illness prevention.

BRANCH OF FACILITY

The Branch of Facility Management continues to assist and provide the BIE with technical services as requested. There are facility projects currently being work on that consist of: roof repair; waterline replacement; cleaning and/or replacing Heating Ventilation, Air-Conditioning (HVAC) systems, water tank and waterline repairs, school playground equipment installation, school and BIA demolition projects, and school housing street paving repair. Below are some of the Branch of Facility Management projects taking place.

Minor Improvement and Repair (MI&R) School Locations:

1. HVAC dust system cleaning at the Shiprock Agency Head Quarters Building is 100% complete. The Shiprock Agency maintenance staff are learning and beginning to understand the HVAC system by making temperature adjustments and monitoring the system remotely.

Deferred Maintenance:

2. The statement of work (SOW) and cost estimate for the Shiprock Administrative Reserve (SAR) demolition project is 100% complete. The Contracting Officer advertised the project and is in solicitation and we are currently answering potential contractor's questions concerning the project's statement of work. We are hopeful and anticipate the award of the contract soon.
3. The SOW and cost estimate for the Cottonwood Day School roofing repair is 80% complete.
4. Tuba City School Streets reconstruction pending additional funds.
5. Pueblo Pintado Housing streets reconstruction design is 90% complete. This project will be submitted for funding with construction in the summer of 2023.
6. The SOW for Pinon Community School cooling system to six dormitory buildings is 90% completed and still lacks funding.
7. Red Rock Day School is a design build project that Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) is responsible for the design and construction to install a 6-inch waterline. The plans, specifications, and cost proposal were completed. The Contracting Officer awarded the contract to NTUA, and we are waiting for NTUA to request for Notice to Proceed to commence with construction of the project.
8. A site visit of the Mariano Lake Community School was made to assess the condition of the school access road. The access road needs to be rehabilitated; therefore, a statement of work consisting of milling the existing paved road surface, reconditioning the sub-base, placing new hot asphalt concrete pavement and pavement markings was completed and submitted to Ms. Barbara Hanson to initiate the work order.
9. The Cove Day School elevated storage tank is pending the Contractor's request for Notice to Proceed to commence with the work to refurbish the tank.

BRANCH OF TRANSPORTATION**ROAD MAINTENANCE**

The Agency Road Maintenance Program, respectively, continues to perform routine maintenance activities on BIA system roads, bridges, and transportation facilities on the Navajo Nation through direct service. Below are some of the road maintenance accomplishments our Agency Road Maintenance Programs performed during the 3rd quarter of Fiscal Year 2023.

Farmington Field Office (Formerly NIIP Roads):

Highlight for the 3rd Quarter maintenance activity was pavement surface repair placing 44 tons of hot asphalt mix at various locations with severe potholes along N3003 between mile post 12 and 16. Shiprock Agency road maintenance staff assisted with this maintenance activity.

Farmington personnel continued with conducting all other daily routine road maintenance activities within their jurisdiction as scheduled.

Maintenance activities on various routes during this period includes:

1. Pothole patching
2. Surface cleaning
3. Mowing & vegetation control
4. Brush & tree removal
5. Sign Repair & Maintenance
6. Delineator maintenance

Other activities conducted during this period includes:

1. Road assessments.
2. Shop building maintenance.
3. Preventative equipment maintenance & service.
4. General operations (daily reports, vehicle & equipment reports, online trainings, safety meetings, inventory of materials) etc.

Farmington personnel continues to assist Shiprock Agency with various road maintenance activities when requested by the Shiprock Agency Road Engineer.



N3003 – Pavement surface repair before and after. N4073-Shoulder maintenance & sand removal.

New Lands Field Office (Nahata Dziil):

Highlight for the 3rd Quarter maintenance activity was the completion of the installation of speed humps and pertinent signage. This activity was to address safety concerns for pedestrians (students) by the local government and school officials within the N2011 School Zone.

The other primary road maintenance activity during this period was mowing for all the routes within their jurisdiction.

New Lands crew continue to stay ahead of schedule on all other daily routine road maintenance activities as scheduled within their jurisdiction.

Maintenance activities performed on various routes during this period include:

1. Mowing
2. Sign repair & maintenance.
3. Roadway delineators installation & maintenance.
4. Vegetation removal.
5. Shoulder work
6. Fence repair
7. Pothole patching.

Other maintenance activities conducted during this period include:

1. Road assessments.
2. Shop building maintenance.
3. Preventative equipment service & maintenance.
4. General operations (daily reports, vehicle & equipment reports, online trainings, safety meetings, inventory of materials) etc.

New Lands personnel also assisted Chinle and Farmington Field Office with various road maintenance activities on various routes when requested by the Agency Road Engineer.



N2011 – Speed hump & “Speed Hump” sign installation in school zone before, during and after.



N2030 – Mowing before and after.

Shiprock Agency:

Navajo Route N13 – Snow and Ice Control and Pothole Patch Work

The Shiprock Agency, Branch of Road Maintenance (BORM) continued to perform snow and ice control with a motor grader since the snowplow equipment sustained damages. After the storms subsided, numerous potholes have become apparent and are being patched from the base of the mountain to the agency line. As these potholes are being patched, others have formed and will be addressed as the crew is making their way up the mountain. The crew also regraded an area where a mudslide had occurred.



N13 Mudslide near Buffalo Pass



N13 Mudslide slope repaired



N13 SIC

Navajo Route N5054 – Washout Repair

The Shiprock Agency, BORM responded to a washout on N5054 where a vehicle had slid into a washout and was recovered with no injuries. The crew mobilized to the site and removed the

culvert pipes; recompact the bedding; replaced the culvert pipes; and compacted to the surface elevation. The repair was completed in three (3) days. The route was then bladed.



N5054 Initial report of washout.



N5054 Washout marked and no traffic.



N5054 Repair Work. N5054 Repair work complete. N5054 Culvert pipes were reinstalled.

Navajo Route N3003 – Asphalt Pothole Patch Work

The Shiprock Agency, BORM assisted the Farmington Section field office with manpower and equipment. Milled a section of highway; placed tack oil; and repaved the roadway. Also, completed some pothole patch work on the same route.

Navajo Route N5099 – Pothole Patch Work and Culvert Installation

The crew completed the installation of a new 24" x 56' culvert drainage pipe on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. The crossing was not yet paved since the asphalt plants were closed at the time. Since then, the crew mobilized back to the site and completed the paving portion of the work. Asphalt material was used to pothole patch along the route.

Navajo Route N34 – Guardrail Repair

The crew completed repairs to a guardrail section damaged from a crash near the Sanostee Chapter house. The crew reinstalled new wooden posts and put up a new steel guardrail including all hardware.

Navajo Route N33 – Erosion and ROW Fence Repairs

The crew completed repairs to a section of roadway with shoulder erosion and guardrail erosion. The cavity of both areas was excavated and recompact with suitable material. The shoulder erosion was regarded conforming to existing ditch line conditions and the guardrail section was recompact from the bottom of the slope to the base material elevation placing asphalt material at the top. The ROW fence was repaired along the route at several locations where livestock were getting onto the roadway.



N33 Shoulder erosion



N33 Shoulder erosion



N33 GR Erosion

Navajo Route N60, N602, & N15 – Roadway Base Work, Milling Work, and Asphalt Repairs.

The Shiprock Agency BORM is assisting the Fort Defiance Agency, BORM with asphalt repairs. The crew began mobilizing to the site on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. The asphalt milling dimensions of 500ft x 24ft on N602 began on Monday, June 12, 2023, and was completed the same day. The area was swept and signed for public traffic since the asphalt material was to be available until Thursday, June 15, 2023. The crew then mobilized to N60 where the roadway was excavated to a dimension of 300 ft. length x 8 ft. width x 2 ft. depth. Tentatively, the work is to be completed by Friday, June 16, 2023. The crew will then mobilize to N15 where a couple of locations will be milled and repaved. The crew will begin demobilizing on Monday, June 26, 2023.

Routine Maintenance Work – Blading, Fence Repairs, Pothole Patch Work, Etc.

ROW fence repairs were completed for the following routes: N5 and N36. Route N13 fence repairs will be scheduled later. Paved roadway pothole patch work is continuing for N5, N36, and N13. Permanent roadway traffic signs were installed on routes N13 and N36. Cattle guard cleanouts has been completed for N35 and scheduled for N13 when the crew returns from Fort Defiance Agency. On N132 and N133, washouts have been repaired and are in use. Guardrail repairs have been assessed and scheduled for N13 later. Blade work for some earth routes have

been completed and others are continuing for the following routes: N549, N5071, N5070, N5054, and N5091.

Western Navajo Agency:

In the 3rd quarter of Fiscal Year of 2023, the BIA, Western Navajo Agency - Branch of Road Maintenance (WNA-BORM) responded to an emergency roadway collapse on a school bus route, BIA Route N6331, in Kaibeto, Coconino County, AZ. The BIA, WNA-BORM made the roadway repairs by completely removing 50 feet section of highway that is suspected to have voids and cavities underneath the roadway. The BIA, WNA-BORM crew cut the pavement and removed the asphalt material and disposed of by hauling the asphalt material back to the Tuba City yard. The aggregate base course was then removed and used as backfill material. The subgrade was then cut down to 7 feet to 8 feet and around the two (2) existing culvert pipes were all recompact up to grade. New aggregate base course material was placed and set to grade. New hot asphalt material was then placed. BIA route N6331 was reopened to the traveling public. Below are some photos of the roadway repair.



N6331 – Remove asphalt

N6331 – Remove & recompact subgrade.



N6331 – Place new Aggregate Base

N6331 – Place new hot asphalt

The BIA, WNA-BORM continued to make roadway repairs on BIA Route N71 and BIA Route N2 from a previous flooding. The BIA, WNA-BORM replaced culvert pipes, road base repairs, erosion repairs and bridge debris cleanout. Below are some pictures of the roadway repair activities.



N71 – Roadway repair before & after.

N2 – Roadway repair before & after.



N71 – Culvert pipe repair & replacement before & after

N71 – Bridge cleanout

The BIA, WNA-BORM performed cattleguard cleanout on BIA Route N21. The cattle guard cleanout will continue into the 4th Quarter. Below are some pictures of the roadway repair activities.



N21-Cattleguard cleanout before N21-Cattleguard cleanout during N21-Cattleguard cleanout after.

The maintenance crew performed routine maintenance on paved roads and dirt roads. The crew completed routine maintenance such as: sign replacement, fence repairs, Pothole Patching, earth road grading, shop building maintenance, preventative equipment maintenance, road assessments and general operations (daily reports, vehicle & equipment reports, online trainings, safety meetings and inventory of materials). The blading services were done on several BIA Routes within each District of Western Navajo Agency. Earth road grading occurred mostly on bus routes and high-volume roads.

Chinle Agency:

Chinle maintenance crew installed several signs on various routes within Chinle Agency. The signs were missing or faded that made it less visible for the traveling public. Due to the amount of moisture received in the early months this year. There was a great amount of backfilling conducted at the inlet and outlet of the pipes on various BIA earth roads. This delayed some blading operations on various earth road.

- Other maintenance activities on various routes within the Chinle jurisdiction include:
 1. Blading
 2. Fence repair
 3. Sign replacement
 4. Pipe installation
 5. Removal of cattle guard
 6. Erosion Control
 7. Mowing
 8. Surface patching

Other activities conducted during this period included road assessments, shop building maintenance, preventative equipment service & maintenance, and general operations (daily reports, vehicle & equipment reports, online trainings, safety meetings, inventory of materials) etc.



N4-Cattlegaurd erosion repair before and after. N64-Mowing before. N64-Mowing after.



N8084-Pipe Installation, during and after.

Fort Defiance Agency:

BIA Routes N60/N602/N15

The Fort Defiance Agency BORM with the assistance from the Shiprock Agency BORM patched heaving, deteriorated, and rutted pavement by milling, resurfacing the base, and re-paving for the following BIA Routes listed above this 3rd quarter (FY2023). The Fort Defiance Agency BORM also completed removing snow drifts on the BIA roads listed above for the safety of the traveling public and school bus routes.

BIA Routes N15/N30/60/N6

The Fort Defiance Agency BORM completed washout repairs, cattle guard cleaning, and fence repairs damaged from the snow and rain this winter. Erosion occurred on the cattle guard approach which required cleaning of the mud and debris. The drainage pipes were plugged with sand, mud and debris which had to be removed and cleaned.

BIA Routes N7/N12/N15/N112

The Fort Defiance Agency BORM completed pothole repairs for the safety of the traveling public. The Fort Defiance Agency BORM crew worked on patching small, medium and large potholes and ruts caused by previous rain and snow through the months of April, May & June in various location of BIA Routes listed above within Fort Defiance Agency.

BIA Route N157/N9056/N31 & N30

The Fort Defiance Agency BORM worked on washout repairs, pothole patching, repair deteriorating pavement, fallen trees removal, boulder (rocks) removal and erosion repairs created by the rain and snow melt on BIA Routes listed above. The Fort Defiance Agency BORM also continue with routine maintenance grading where snow melting washout/rutted on the routes and needed to be open for the safety of the traveling public.

The Fort Defiance Agency BORM continued with other road maintenance activities such as erosion repairs, removing and re-installing culvert metal pipes and blading services on several other BIA Routes within all Districts of Fort Defiance Agency. Road blading services occurred mostly on school bus routes and on roads in higher elevation.



N60 – Pavement preservation during milling, base repair, and paving.



N602 – Pavement preservation during milling, base repair, and paving.



N9 – Cattleguard cleanout during and after.



N112 – Pothole patching during and after.



N9653 – Culvert pipe washout repair before and after.



N157 – Washout repair before and after.



N9056 / H60 – Boulder removal before and after.



N30 – Blading (after)

N31 – Blading (during)

EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY

Branch of Transportation (BOT):

In April, pothole patching was completed on paved routes N7062 in Breadsprings, N474 (up to Sandoval County line) in Ojo Encino and N9 West in Nahodishgish. Regulatory road signs and signposts were replaced on N474 in Ojo Encino; these signs and signposts were missing due to high winds. Cattleguard cleaning was completed on Earth Route N7136 in Whitehorse Lake, and the 310SK backhoe was utilized. Fence repairs were completed on N7140 in Lupton and N474 in Ojo Encino, while ditching and blading were completed in Pueblo Pintado community on earth routes N7008, N7013, N7135, N7134, and N91. The 12G grader was also used for Right-of-Way (ROW) cleaning along the fence line on N9 East in Whitehorse between mile post 66 and 70. Mowing was completed along N56 in ToHajiilee using the John Deere farm tractor with a mower attachment. For safety and traffic control during the mowing process, BOT staff set up delineators along culverts on highway N56 in ToHajiilee. Upon completion, the John Deere tractor was transported back to the Crownpoint BOT yard using the Navistar Transport semi-truck. The BOT crew transported heavy equipment to begin an erosion backfill project on N474 in Ojo Encino. BOT received a request to assist the Navajo Nation Police Department with traffic signs to alert roadway traffic of an accident that required the road closure of N11 in Pinedale. BOT helped with temporary traffic control by putting up “road closed” and “accident ahead” signs. In addition, BOT procured universal patching material winter mix from pavement sealant.

In recent months, there has been an increase in semi-truck traffic on these roads which are not designed for the hauling of heavy loads. In response to high traffic, BOT installed “local traffic only” signage at the junction of N9 West and U.S. 491, N7140 in Lupton and at Tinian on N9 East mile post 98. BOT completed cattleguard cleaning on N49 in Smith Lake at mile post 23, along with new wing braces added and fencing was done to connect to cattleguard. BOT staff completed erosion backfill project on the inlet of bridges on N474 in Ojo Encino in two (2) locations. Furthermore, the BOT staff attended Crownpoint Chapter’s informative meeting on illegal dumping and hantavirus prevention.

Staff participated in the N46 and N474 roads follow up meeting at Nageezi Chapter, which included Honorable Danny Simpson’s Legislative District Assistant, chapter officials – Nageezi, Counselor, Ojo Encino, DJR - Oil company representatives, Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) representatives, and the New Mexico District 5 County Commissioner Joshua Jones. The meeting was conducted to discuss how Routes N46 and N474 can be improved or well maintained for the local communities, oil companies, and the traveling public during inclement weather conditions. Funding was a major topic discussed during the meeting, since NDOT has limited funds to construct the new roadway; however, short-term fixes were proposed, such as replacing damage pipes, repairing low spots, and placing gravel.

In May, BOT completed cattle-guard cleaning on N9 West from mile posts 32.7 to 38. A 950 front end loader was used along with a 310 SK backhoe to clean out 22 units and remove sand dunes from earth route N7114, Little Boy Road in Becenti. Earth route 7114 had sand built up on the road, making the road impassable. Pothole patching was completed on N7140 in Lupton and N7044 in ChiChilTah using universal patching material (UPM). BOT also completed fence repairs along the same routes. The materials used were barbed wire, t-posts with fasteners, and fence stays. BOT also completed ditching and blading using the 12G motor graders on earth route

N7114, Little Boy Road in Becenti, earth route N11, Rocky Canyon Pass, earth route N52 in Dalton Pass, and earth routes N7122, N7123 and N7124 in Standing Rock.

The BOT staff participated in the N46 and N474 roads follow up meeting at Nageezi Chapter, which included Council Delegate Honorable Danny Simpson, Honorable George Tolth's Legislative District Assistant, NDOT representatives, chapter officials from Nageezi, Counselor, Ojo Encino, DJR Oil company representatives. The BOT staff conducted a site visit and decided to replace several damaged culvert pipes on N474 as part of the N46 and N474 Roads Meeting and as a proactive measure before this year's monsoon season. BOT also made a site visit to the ChiChilTah, Jones Ranch, Lupton and Breadsprings routes to verify the roadway striping quantity to submit to the Acquisition Office for solicitation for a striping contractor. BOT completed mowing on N48 North and South in Littlewater, Borrego Pass and Casamero Lake; and on N9 West from Crownpoint to Standing Rock using the John Deere tractor with a mowing attachment. BOT completed fence repair on N11 in Pinedale at mile post 4, where water washed sand away from the fence line, and on N48 South in Casamero Lake, where the fence line was broken and cut. Due to the turnouts not being used, BOT completed the removal of two (2) cattle guards on N9 East in the Whitehorse Lake community. The BOT staff removed the unused cattleguards and installed a fence line in lieu of cattleguards, closing off the unused turnouts. BOT completed ditching and blading in the Standing Rock community on earth routes N7124, N7125, N7126, and Borrego Pass & Star Pond earth routes N483 and N489.

BOT completed ditch and blading on earth routes 485 in Casamero Lake, and routes N7111 and N7113 in Mariano Lake, and N7126 in Standing Rock. The BOT staff also installed a cattleguard on N7140 in Lupton. BOT transported a 950F loader and backhoe to earth route N474 in Counselor and began the culvert installation project. BOT also completed fence repair on N9 East in Tinian, N49-11 from Smith Lake to Pinedale. Furthermore, BOT attended the Roads and Project meeting with Whitehorse Chapter at BIA Agency Building 251. The BOT and NDOT completed their installation of culvert pipes on Navajo Route 474 near Counselor, NM, as part of the Nageezi Chapter Road concerns meeting, wherein the chapter officials and council delegates have requested minor and major maintenance repairs on several earth roads. In response to requests, the BOT, in coordination with NDOT, installed the culvert pipes on N474 at three locations. In the first location near the water pump house, BOT replaced a damaged 48" pipe with a new 48" x 40' culvert pipe. In the second location - near the earth dam- a damaged 36" pipe was replaced with two 36" x 40' culvert pipes. The third and final location was one (1) mile east of the earth dam; here, a damaged 24" pipe was replaced with a new 24" x 40' culvert pipe. These activities support safe and reliable roads for the public, emergency vehicles, school buses, and commerce.

In June, BOT addressed erosion caused by the recent rain on earth route N7008 in Pueblo Pintado. BOT staff utilized a 310sk backhoe to backfill erosion, making the earth road safe for local community to pass. Earth Route N11, Rocky Canyon Pass in Mariano Lake, was ditched and bladed. Pothole patching was completed on N9 West in Standing Rock and N9 East in Whitehorse. Fence repairs were completed in four areas on N9 East in Pueblo Pintado and Whitehorse. BOT completed routine maintenance with mowing on Crownpoint Streets and N9 West, including pothole patching on N474. BOT also completed culvert cleaning on N9 West. The International Navistar truck transported the 12g motor grader to Earth Route N7004 in Rincon Marques, where ditching and blading was completed. BOT staff also installed one new 24" culvert

pipe on Route N474. BOT received a letter requesting pothole patching near the intersection of N7140 in Lupton and SR118; the location was assessed and found to be in the NMDOT ROW, in which BOT contacted NMDOT to address. Furthermore, erosion control was completed along N9 west in Standing Rock. BOT was conducting blading on earth route N7122 when it discovered an exposed pipeline; BOT immediately contacted Western Pipeline. BOT staff completed road reconnaissance on earth routes N7008 and N9652 for washouts.

In coordination with the NDOT, BOT's primary goal is to keep roads open and safe to the traveling public within the eastern portion of the Navajo Nation. The staff must coordinate and address emergencies and inclement weather that impact roads, washouts, and bridges. The crew is on alert and, when necessary and possible, pretreat roads in Eastern Navajo Agency. These activities support safe and reliable roads for the public, emergency vehicles, school buses and commerce.

Branch of Real Estate Service (BRES):

BRES staff attended a housing fair event in Albuquerque, New Mexico to participate in discussions on Indian community housing issues within the city and on the Indian reservations, including residential leasing of allotted land within Eastern Navajo Agency was made, which was well received and appreciated. Staff will coordinate future invitations to similar events due to the requirement of a lease for assistance from the Navajo Nation's ARPA funding.

BRES participated in a FIMO outreach meeting in Farmington, New Mexico. The session was part of a meeting and a breakout session for individual questions and assistance. Most of the people came to the session to receive information about probate, leasing, and ROW information from the agency staff. The staff were very helpful in aiding all visitors. The outreach meeting was to educate the landowners about their property rights and income from oil and gas and other developments.

BRES participated in several meetings on BIA road N474/N46 in the Nageezi, Counselor, and Ojo Encino Chapters. The discussion was on short- and long- term plans for repairing the damaged roads and future improvements for the three tribal roads used extensively by tribal members, oil and gas industry, school buses, and emergency vehicles. NDOT intends to be the applicant for the ROW. Some commitments were made on the short-term efforts with funding and materials; however, the long-term costs are estimated to have high costs with no available funding for the proposed projects at this time. NDOT has indicated that they secured about \$16,000,000 for 6 miles on N46, subject to further discussions. These efforts will result in improved roads for the Navajo communities.

BRES staff participated in the Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) outreach presentation on residential lease processes and land status. The interest in residential leasing is a result of more Navajo lessees wanting or needing home loans to finance home construction on allotted lands - these require leases for mortgaging purposes.

BRES staff met with the Whitehorse Lake Chapter Community Land Use Planning Committee on ROW projects and fee-to-trust updates. BRES staff also participated in another meeting addressing road issues at the Rincon Marques Community Center, but this time with more

participants from the program offices involved in the projects. Future planning is still needed to address the issues and acquire funding.

BRES staff met with Souder, Miller & Associates, as well as with Bernalillo County officials, on the ToHajiilee Water System MOU and FONSI to discuss the status and corrections needed on the application package. This project will assist in resolving the water shortage experienced by the community due to faulty well equipment.

At the ChiChilTah Chapter, BRES participated in an outreach meeting discussing residential leasing on allotted land. There has been an increase in requests for residential leases due to the ARPA funding for the Navajo Nation; individuals require leases to receive any funding assistance.

BRES participated on an on-site inspection for a pipeline and road ROW to an oil and gas well site. This inspection was conducted to determine the impact of the proposed ROW, which crosses a portion of an Indian allotment.

BRES staff participated and provided technical assistance to allottees at a family meeting at the Federal Indian Minerals Office in response to concerns on inheritance, oil and gas leasing, and probate information. The staff made a presentation on the American Indian Probate Reform Act and the changes in inheritance regulations. The main cause of concern identified was the sole heir rule, which sets a land interest of less than 5% to the oldest child among the family members, with others not being eligible to inherit in the allotments.

BRES staff attended the Navajo Nation Council Resources and Development Committee's two-day work session on road and transportation issues at the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation office complex in Tse Bonito, NM. An overview of land status in Eastern Navajo Agency presentation was provided to the committee members, which highlighted the challenges of securing ROW within a complicated mixed-land environment with multiple governmental jurisdictions.

BRES worked on and completed pending gift deeds for customers who wish to deed their land interests to family members or friends. During the COVID 19 pandemic, BRES staff has received numerous requests for residential leases, because of potential Navajo Nation ARPA assistance. BRES also attended two local chapter outreach sessions on the homesite and residential leasing processes. These sessions assist clients in obtaining information about applying for either a homesite or a residential lease.

BRES attended the Tribal Infrastructure Board Meeting hosted by the State of New Mexico Indian Affairs Department in Albuquerque, New Mexico. BRES attended in support of the chapters within the Eastern Navajo Agency that outlined their TIF project presentations for waterline projects. These projects included ToHajiilee Navajo Chapter Water System Improvements Phase II, the White Rock-Lake Valley Extension, and the Beacon Bisti N9 Lateral Water Supply Project including Reach 10.1 (Becenti Chapter). The chapters have requested more than \$9.1 million in TIF assistance. The funding and completion of these projects will provide utility services to Navajo communities.

BRES participated in two residential lease work sessions at the NRO with the regional realty officer and other agency staff to standardize the forms and procedures for residential leases on allotted lands. A semi-final draft was developed for final editing and review. The regional office will be issuing a regional memo to implement these new procedures when completed. The completion of this draft will provide the necessary forms and a standard process for residential leasing of allotted land in the Navajo Region.

Branch of Natural Resources (BNR):

From March to June 2023, BNR accomplished numerous objectives and goals in support of range management decisions in the best interest of the landowners, making it possible for them to receive income from the use of their land and natural resources and are managed properly.

The Superintendent approved four (4) grazing permits. BNR conducted 39 grazing permit compliance work involving record reviews and mailed compliance letters, outstanding invoices for past years and 2023 annual grazing rental payments for trust lands, approved three (3) TAAMS Range Contracts, canceled three grazing permits due to deceased permittees and conducted one field visit for grazing permit transactions and range improvement projects.

On April 27, 2023, BNR presented at the Huerfano Chapter on the 2025 Grazing Permit Renewal Project, approximately 77 were in attendance. Staff provided detailed information on the renewal project.

On March 29-31, 2023, BNR and the Agency Superintendent attended and participated in the Eastern Agency Land Board Training/Work-Session in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The work session and training involved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the grazing permit administration and range management amendment and recommendation, the Navajo Escrow Account, Fund Management Plan, and the bonding requirement. The Board identified several items to include in the MOU; get more clarification and coordination related to the tribal ranches, Paragon Ranch, Grazing Communities, administrative support, resource enforcement, purpose, District 15, Indian Allotments, homesite leases, annual meeting, feral horses, definitions, and Rio Puerco identification. The Superintendent provided an update on the Navajo Escrow Account in that annual grazing fees payments are now directly distributed to the Navajo Nation Proceeds of Labor accounts initiated in January 2023. The amount in the Navajo Escrow Account would be distributed to key stakeholders once the audit has been completed. The Board expressed their recommendations on the funds being used for Eastern Navajo Agency.

On April 25, 2023, BNR assisted the Eastern Navajo Joint Land Board in amending the 2003 Memorandum of Understanding between the Navajo Nation, BIA, and BLM for the Administration of Grazing and Range Management in Eastern Navajo Agency and provided the red-line version of the document to the participating parties. On May 19, 2023, BNR assisted the Eastern Agency Joint Land Board with MOU revision work and provided the final draft red-line version with a cover letter.

On June 6, 2023, the Navajo Escrow Account had a balance of about \$1,047,731.42, which reflects payments of the annual grazing rental and late fees for tribal lands, public domain (BLM) lands, state lands, Public Land Order 2198, and US lands. BNR, with the assistance of an auditor, is reconciling the amount deposited with receipts on file and identifying amount collected for

each land ownership. BNR remains responsible to collect annual grazing rental for tribal trust lands and government lands. So far, BNR collected \$66,698.93 for 2023 grazing year for 337 range units and \$326.91 in late fees and confirmed funds were distributed directly to the individual Indian landowners and the Navajo Nation. In April 2023, BNR mailed 20 late fee invoices reminding permittees on the 2023 annual grazing rental payments.

For the Alamo/ Canoncito Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Inventory and Environmental Assessment Project, in May 2023, the contractor completed 100% of the Environmental Assessment, 100% of the Biological Resources Survey and Report, and 100% of the Class II Cultural Resources Survey and Report. The Contractor received the Cultural Resources Compliance Form from the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department to complete the Environmental Assessment and provided the Findings of No Significant Impact for review. Currently, the Navajo Region's Environmental Compliance and Review is reviewing the draft FONSI and environmental assessment. BNR received about \$133,000.00 to implement mitigation control of salt cedar, Russian olives, and Siberian elms, and \$56,000.00 to complete a biological survey of threatened and endangered species prior to implementing treatment. BNR finalized and submitted the Statement of Work to survey and assess the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat prior to treatment of invasive plants and noxious weeds for the Alamo/Canoncito Project.

For the LMD 14/15/16 Boundary Fence Project, in March 2023, VHJ Construction (Contractor) completed 24.5 miles of fencing including removal of the old fence that served its design life. The fence project is 99% complete pending correction of fencing specification for one site and final payment.

The BNR continues to attend and participate in the District Land Board meetings. For District 15 Land Board meetings, agenda items included Standing Rock Range Unit (RU) 43, request to transfer grazing permit transfer and recommendation for probate; recommended changes to the 2023 MOU discussed at the Eastern Agency Joint Land Board work session and training on March 29-31, 2023; for horse roundup plans, the three chapters intend to revise their resolutions for roundups. Nahodishgish Grazing Community RU 25, request to transfer grazing permit, permittee overstock with 10 head of cattle, permittee needs to reduce the numbers.

For the District 16 Land Board meetings, agenda items included Navajo Nation to purchase the Navajo Wool & Mohair from the producers using the Agriculture Infrastructure Funds of the Navajo Nation; purchase livestock feed for Eastern Navajo Agency permittees; USDA Farm Service Agency assists permittees with Livestock Feed Assistance funds; BLM to assign a Navajo tribal coordinator for the Eastern Agency; and Wingate Grazing Community RU 12 and 15 to combine units. BNR attended the permittee meeting at the Pinedale Chapter House and reported on the 2025 Grazing Permit renewal process and timeline, about 30 individuals were in attendance.

For the District 19 Land Board meetings, agendas included homesite lease; harassment by neighbor; Land exchange and boundary for proposed campground site; Spring Livestock Inventories; two requests for BLM grazing permits. BLM staff recommended that applicant submit a homesite or residential lease and to request a referral form. BLM permit request, canceled in 2018, BLM will write letter to family that the permit is canceled. Discussion on MOU-Review and Recommendation. BNR presented on the 2025 Grazing Permit Renewal Project with

specific data on District 19 Grazing Communities. BLM informed that grazing permit renewal process going forward, recommended to ensure that permits are returned for BLM approval. Huerfano RU 13 field assessment scheduled in June 2023. Request to transfer BLM grazing permit need compliance documents. The Board concurred with BLM grazing permit transfer. BLM requested compliance documents.

BNR provided Indian Health Service's Office of Environmental Health and Engineering with grazing permit information for Project NA-22-G31 to obtain a ROW to serve eight (8) homes, Gallup South Scattered Housing 2022 in Red Rock, Bread Springs, and ChiChilTah chapters with water and sewer facilities. There are five (5) range units affected involving 2,147 acres.

Branch of Probate & Estate Services (BPES):

For 2023 thus far, BPES staff has received 267 reported deaths; 106 cases were submitted to and accepted by the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA). These cases cover approximately \$1,486,685.74 in Individual Indian Monies (IIM) accounts, 701 allotments, and 371 probable heirs. The staff completed the disbursement and close-out of 219 cases, and assisted approximately 1,774 clients either in the office, in the field doing home visits, through outreaches, through the phone, or through email. BPES staff update and inform Indian allotment interest holders, so they have a better understanding of their interest holdings.

Many of the activities are conducted in the Navajo language, which helps the owners significantly regarding estate planning. These activities greatly benefit the Navajo Nation as well when it comes to land use planning pertaining to consent for infrastructure and commercial projects that involve Indian allotments. The types of service requested by the clients involve but are not limited to, printing Individual Tribal Interest reports, and educating clients on how to read the reports, updating contact information, explaining the documents needed for submitting a case to the OHA, conducting client interviews for probate cases, and educating the public about the federal probate process and estate planning. In addition, these activities support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty by ensuring that the title to Indian allotments is kept accurate and updated.

Appendix A –Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL)

June 2023

06/08/23; Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs inviting you to the commission hearing on July 25-26, 2023, Billings, Montana.

06/13/23; Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Secretary of the Interior regarding the Not Invisible Act of 2019, to increase coordination in identifying land combating violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians.

06/26/23; Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Deputy Director for Climate and Environment, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy regarding the upcoming Tribal consultation on the development of the Federal government’s first Ocean Justice Strategy.

06/26/23; Memorandum from the Director, BIA regarding the availability of funding from the Division of Natural Resources Agriculture Branch, Bison Management on the Bison Management.

06/27/23; a letter from the Director, Cultural Heritage Center, regarding a tribal consultation on the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act of 2021, Pub. L. 117-258.

May 2023

05/03/23; Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs regarding the Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU). Secretary Haaland charged the MMU with the responsibility of providing leadership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work.

05/04/23; Dear Tribal Leader letter from Secretary regarding the Not Invisible Act of 2019 which was signed into law – to increase coordination in identifying and combating violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians – in response to the longstanding crises of missing murdered Indigenous people and human trafficking.

05/10/23; Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs regarding U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on holding a virtual listening session for the creation of the Indigenous Peoples Conservation Advisory Network.

05/10/23; Dear Tribal Leader Letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs regarding the Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee. Nominations are being requested for committee members, to be submitted by May 26, 2023.

05/17/23; Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary –Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Department of State regarding a series of listening sessions launched by the United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution.

May 2023

05/17/23; Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs as on the Small Tribes Supplement Consultations and the proposed FY 2023 Small Tribes Supplement distributions.

05/23/23; Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs. The White House and White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNA) to discuss the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117 – 169) and its expansive scope of benefits to Tribal Nations and Native communities.

05/25/23; Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs regarding the Tiwahe Initiative demonstration project.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

May 3, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

The Honorable Buu Nygren
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs regarding the Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU). Secretary Haaland charged the MMU with the responsibility of providing leadership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work.

Accordingly, a webinar is scheduled on MMU on May 31, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Please see the enclosed for the registration information via zoom. If you have any questions, please contact Marcelino ToersBijns, Unit Chief for MMU at marcelino.toersbijns@bia.gov or (505) 563-3762.

Sincerely,

GREGORY
MEHOJAH

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH
Date: 2023.05.04
13:56:49 -06'00'

Gregory C. Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Honorable Amber Crotty, 25th Navajo Nation Council, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAY - 1 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

On April 1, 2021, Secretary Haaland announced the formation of the Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU), a component of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Justice Services (OJS). Secretary Haaland charged the MMU with the responsibility of providing leadership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. As we head into year two of this work, I would like to provide an update on the important progress the MMU is making as well as invite you to attend a webinar to learn about the MMU and provide feedback

Please join MMU leadership on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 11:00 am Mountain Time for the webinar. Please register in advance for this meeting at:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltcOGuqTkoGiVT-DrE8LpQiuUYDyU3_k4

Headquartered in Albuquerque, NM, the MMU is continuing to hire senior positions to begin stakeholder collaboration, policy development, and provide oversight of agents conducting field investigations. From 2021-2022, 17 MMU offices across 11 states were established, and staffed by at least one MMU agent.

The MMU commands law enforcement resources across OJS and has expanded OJS's ability to collaborate with other agencies working to solve acute cases, which are defined as cases involving an endangered missing person, persons who have been missing for a long term, and unsolved homicides. An important partner in this effort is the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which works closely with the MMU to coordinate a centralized intake process for missing and murdered case referrals and conducts investigative activities on current and previously unsolved investigations. The MMU also meets frequently with Tribal, State and County law enforcement programs to discuss case referrals received by the MMU or the FBI.

Administrative Milestones Achieved by the MMU in 2022

- Formalized the MMU Standard Operating Procedures for conducting MMU investigations.
- Established the MMU Victim Services Program that will be comprised of five victim specialists to provide support to the families of the victims.
 - In 2022 two victim specialists were hired.
 - In 2023, , the MMU is hiring three additional victim services employees, two are awaiting starting dates, and one is being re-advertised.
- Established a MMU Case Intake Process to standardize how agents receive and review cases for solvability and investigation.
- Hired Evidence Technicians who are now in training to implement new technologies to assist MMU Agents with processing crime scenes.
- On December 10, 2022, the BIA launched a website (BIA.GOV/MMU) for the primary purpose of generating tips from the public about active cases that may help law enforcement give closure to victims' families. This website leverages the power of internet and social media, so that case information may be quickly shared through digital means to encourage the

evidence and assist with search and rescue/recovery efforts underwater.

- Establishing four Crime Scene Mapping Stations to provide 3-D regeneration of crime scenes.
- Gaining access to an open-source intelligence platform to assist with finding persons or investigative leads.
- Contracting certified laboratory services to establish and provide a dedicated DNA/Genealogy Crime Lab. The MMU will share these services with other OJS Criminal Investigations or Tribal law enforcement departments that are investigating cases involving missing or murdered AI/AN cases.
- Purchasing five Crime Scene Vehicles evidence technicians can use to process crime scenes.

MMU Successes

Total Case Referrals and Closures

The MMU receives case referrals from Tribal community members and law enforcement agencies nationwide. From 2021 to present, agents have:

- Investigated 714 missing and murdered persons cases
- Solved or closed 259 missing persons cases
- Solved 8 murder cases

Streamlined and Standardized case review processes across Federal agencies

The FBI has investigative responsibilities for Federal crimes committed on nearly 200 Indian reservations nationwide and shares Federal jurisdiction with the BIA. In 2022, the MMU and the FBI began working on establishing a process to streamline the way in which missing and murdered cases are screened, reviewed, and tracked within both Bureaus. The standard processes should be finalized in late 2023 and include identifying the lead investigative agency and assigning a case agent to investigate. This effort promotes teamwork across both Bureaus and is a direct result of Executive Order 14053, on Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People. Both Bureaus will continue to finalize these efforts in 2023.

To align with the Savanna's Act, the MMU is also tasked with developing a Multi-Disciplinary Group Initiative. This work is underway with MMU leadership participating in discussions with representatives of the Department of Justice to develop strategies to improve collaboration between federal partners. One key strategy includes developing Multi-Disciplinary Groups to review missing and murdered case referrals. This process will be tested as a pilot project in New Mexico, South Dakota, and Washington state when staff are hired later this year.

Establishment of the MMU Victim Services Program

In December 2021, the MMU established the MMU Victim Services Program for victims and families. The work of the MMU Victim Services Program centers on:

- Working with the lead case investigator to identify information that will not jeopardize the open investigation and to provide this information to the next of kin/family as quickly as



public to submit tips. Other uses of the website include educating the public about MMU's role, purpose, and mission. The MMU is updating content and will be adding new features to the website, including:

- Monthly Case Reporting Data
- Success Stories about key cases that were closed, bringing justice and closure to families.
- Jobs Information to assist in hiring specialists for the MMU

Key MMU Positions Hired in 2021 and 2022

- Since the Unit's establishment, the MMU has hired and retained 15 special agents to review and investigate acute cases referred to the MMU. The MMU is in the process of filling 5 vacant special agent positions.
- The MMU is adding an additional 20 agents; 15 positions are awaiting action by Human Resources and new position descriptions are in draft for 5 for new positions. At full capacity, the MMU may employ nearly 65 employees nationwide.
- A Deputy Unit Chief and four regional agents in charge will provide oversight.
- A Program Analyst and Program Specialist now support the MMU to collect and analyze performance data and coordinate administrative and programmatic responsibilities.

AS OF FY 22, AGENTS ARE LOCATED	NEW AGENTS AND NEW LOCATIONS FOR FY23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Agent in Carson City, NV • 3 Agents in Phoenix, AZ (1 agent added) • 1 Agent in Fort Apache, AZ • 2 Agents Muskogee, OK (1 agent added) • 2 Agents in Oklahoma, OK (1 agent added) • 3 Agents in Billings, Mt (1 agent added) • 1 Agent in Shelby, MT • 1 Agent in Great Falls, MT • 2 Agents in Bismarck, ND (1 agent added) • 1 Agent in Minneapolis, MN • 1 Agent in Bemidji, MN • 2 Agent in Nashville, TN (1 agent added) • 1 Agent in Vancouver, WA • 1 Agent in Spokane, WA • 2 Agents in Rapid City, SD (1 agent added) • 2 Agent in Albuquerque, NM (1 agent added) • 1 Agent in Anchorage, AK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 MMU Liaison to FBI • 1 Agent in Sioux Falls, SD • 2 Agents in Mount Pleasant, Michigan (New Location) • 1 Agent in Gallup, NM (New Location) • 1 Agent in Farmington, NM (New Location) • 1 Agent Seattle, WA (New Location) • 1 Agent in Riverton, WY (New Location) • 2 Agents in Devils Lake, ND (Proposed Location) • 1 Agent in Salt Lake, UT (New Location) • 2 Agents, Location to be determined

MMU Capabilities Expanded in 2022

Since the MMU was established, it has invested in and implemented several new capabilities and technologies to assist in finding evidence and closing cases. These include:

- Purchasing and providing training on how to use Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and underwater Oceano bionics.
- GPR provides imagery of what lies underground, which may be used to assist with finding evidence, human remains, etc.
- Oceano bionics includes underwater radar, camera, and robotic arm that are used to identify

- possible.
- Working with families to explain the complicated legal process that occurs as a case develops into a prosecutable case for submission to the Tribal and Federal courts. This provides families and next of kin a better understanding of why case information cannot always be shared while an active case is developing.
 - Bringing humanity to the cases by helping investigators understand what families need throughout the process.
 - Communicating to families that the ultimate, goal of all the parties is to hold offenders accountable to bring justice and closure for a family.

Improving and expanding partnerships

The MMU is expanding relationships with Tribal, State and Federal partners across the country as the MMU deepens its capacity. Efforts to build or repair past relationships are succeeding, with key areas involving the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office in Montana, and the Navajo Nation Police Department. The MMU is also working on forging new partnerships with state law enforcement entities such as the Alaska Department of Public Safety, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and the Michigan State Police. In other areas, the MMU is expanding existing relationships with law enforcement entities, such as the Montana Division of Criminal Investigations and the Washington State Police.

I hope you will join MMU leadership for the webinar on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, to learn more about the MMU and provide us with your suggestions for improvement. If you have any questions regarding the MMU, please contact Marcelino ToersBijns, Unit Chief for the MMU, at marcelino.toersbijns@bia.gov or (505) 563-3762.

Sincerely,



Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

May 4, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

The Honorable Buu Nygren
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a Dear Tribal Leader letter from Secretary regarding the Not Invisible Act of 2019 which was signed into law – to increase coordination in identifying and combating violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians – in response to the longstanding crises of missing murdered Indigenous people and human trafficking.

Accordingly, a commission hearing is scheduled on May 9, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Twin Arrows Casino Resort, Flagstaff, Arizona. Please see the enclosed, on registration and hearing information. Written testimonies are also welcomed by email: NIAC@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,

**GREGORY
MEHOJAH**

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH
Date: 2023.05.04
13:58:53 -06'00'

Gregory C. Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton, 25th Navajo Nation Council, Navajo Nation
Honorable Amber Crotty, 25th Navajo Nation Council, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 28 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

In October 2020, the Not Invisible Act of 2019 was signed into law—to increase coordination in identifying and combating violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians—in response to the longstanding crises of missing and murdered Indigenous people (MMIP) and human trafficking (HT).

Pursuant to section 4 of the act, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland and I established the Not Invisible Act Commission (Commission), which consists of Federal and non-Federal members. More information on the Commission and its members can be found [here](#). The Commission is required, by October 2023, to submit a final report to Congress, the Attorney General, and me with recommendations on how to improve intergovernmental coordination, bolster resources, and establish best practices for State/Tribal/Federal law enforcement to help combat this epidemic of violence.

To help achieve this requirement of section 4, the Commission is holding national hearings to solicit public testimony at multiple locations to shape its report recommendations on specific MMIP and HT topics. These hearings will provide a forum for law enforcement, subject-matter experts, organizations, State/Tribal task forces, advocates, survivors/families, and other stakeholders to offer testimony directly to the Commission in order to improve cross-jurisdictional communications, increase access to resources, and address other issues related to the MMIP and HT crises.

Please join the next Commission hearing—details are below. Additional dates and locations are forthcoming.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	HEARING TOPIC
May 9, 2023 (Morning is open to media.)	9 a.m. – 5 p.m. MT	Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort 22181 Resort Boulevard (I-40, Exit 219) Flagstaff, AZ	Coordinating Resources When Identifying/Responding to MMIP and HT: Criminal Jurisdiction; Prosecution; Information Sharing; Law Enforcement; and Investigation

Registration and Hearing Information:

Commission members will lead the public hearing to address topics specified under the act and listed above. Each hearing will include open-press segments, as well as closed-press segments that provide privacy to participants without media being present. Trauma-informed support will be available onsite with optional follow-up support, as needed. The Commission's facilitation team will be present to document all oral testimony. Please note that any information provided during the hearings—including oral testimony and written comments—is considered public record, so please protect nonpublic or sensitive information accordingly. Register [here](#) if you plan to attend the hearing in person.

Written Testimony and Questions:

Submit written testimony, recommendations, or questions to the Commission at: NIAC@ios.doi.gov. Include in subject line: "NIAC Testimony" or "NIAC Question."

Thank you in advance for supporting the Commission's work to address the MMIP and HT crises. Only with the collective participation of all our communities will our missing, murdered, or trafficked relatives and friends no longer be invisible.

Sincerely,



Deb Haaland



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

May 10, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

The Honorable Buu Nygren
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs regarding U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, on holding a virtual listening session for the creation of the Indigenous Peoples Conservation Advisory Network on May 22, 2023, from 3:00-5:00 p.m., EDT.

Please refer to the enclosure for more information and on how to register via zoom meeting.

Sincerely,

GREGORY
MEHOJAH

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH

Date: 2023.05.10
11:10:50 -06'00'

Gregory C. Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation



*United States Department of State
Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 1, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader,

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, working with the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will hold a virtual listening session for the creation of an Indigenous Peoples Conservation Advisory Network (IP-CAN) on Monday, May 22 from 3:00-5:00pm EDT. The objective of IP-CAN is to support the leadership of Indigenous Peoples in their conservation, restoration, and sustainable management efforts in terrestrial (including inland waters), coastal, and ocean ecosystems. We intend IP-CAN to be a global network that is Indigenous-led and responsive to input.

The triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution are having a profound impact on Indigenous Peoples world-wide. The participation, empowerment, and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples – as stewards of much of the world's natural resources worldwide – are critical to global efforts to address these crises. Indigenous knowledge, customary practices, and traditions have a key role to play in designing solutions, and must be respected, valued, and protected. The United States seeks to play a leadership role in promoting the rights and empowerment of Indigenous Peoples world-wide. The U.S. Department of State along with our interagency partners are proposing a global Indigenous Peoples Conservation Advisory Network that will support Indigenous Peoples as critical partners in addressing these global challenges (more details attached). We are seeking input and perspectives from U.S. tribal leaders to inform development of IP-CAN prior to our international consultations.

We invite you to participate in a virtual listening session on May 22, 2023. The listening session is open to Tribal Organizations, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian communities and will be recorded. Please send any questions to tribalconsultation@state.gov.

Please see the attachment for more information about the proposed design and intent of the IP-CAN along with proposed discussion questions below:

- 1) What are the global challenges and opportunities for conservation facing Indigenous Peoples, from your perspective?
- 2) What are the programs, policies, or activities that should accompany setting 30x30 targets so that achieving these targets will help advance Indigenous-led conservation?
- 3) How best can the Biden Administration develop co-stewardship agreements with your tribes/tribal communities to advance Indigenous-led conservation and restoration efforts, as aligned with the America the Beautiful goals and principles and other Administration directives?
- 4) How could a global advisory network on Indigenous-led conservation and the 30x30 target be structured and implemented to make it useful and effective?
- 5) Do you engage on these topics with Indigenous communities in other countries through any existing networks? Would a global advisory network be redundant with those existing networks or could it be leveraged to improve coordination across them?
- 6) Where do you see opportunities to integrate Indigenous Knowledge into Federal conservation efforts and what are challenges to achieving this integration?

City/State	Date	Location
Washington, D.C.	May 22, 2023 3:00-5:00pm EDT	<p><i>Zoom Information:</i></p> <p><i>When: May 22, 2023 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)</i></p> <p><i>Register in advance for this meeting:</i></p> <p>https://statedept.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsd-Cupj0tGD_Mx48OSAz-fIJGv2V89_4</p> <p><i>After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting</i></p>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Maxine Burkett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maxine Burkett

Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental
and Scientific Affairs

Department of State

Indigenous Peoples' Conservation Advisory Network

March 2023

Objective: To support the leadership of Indigenous Peoples in their conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable management efforts in terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and ocean ecosystems, and to facilitate achievement of global goals on climate and biodiversity.

These goals include:

- Enhancing community and ecosystem resilience
- Conserving, protecting and restoring 30 per cent of land and oceans by 2030 (30 X 30)
- Reducing ecosystem and species loss
- Halting deforestation by 2030 and associated greenhouse gas emissions
- Achieving net zero emissions by 2050
- Fostering diverse inclusion across these efforts, including through promoting Indigenous co-stewardship of land and waters, and incorporating Indigenous Knowledge in land and water management decisions.

Overview: The IP-CAN seeks to provide a platform to support Indigenous Peoples' stewardship of lands and waters to address the climate and biodiversity crises and their impacts. The network will facilitate experience- and knowledge-sharing across global indigenous communities and promote voluntary and culturally appropriate exchange with partners on indigenous approaches to the threats facing terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and ocean ecosystems. The network seeks to provide an opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to discuss current initiatives, identify gaps, and propose capacity building measures for select Indigenous-led conservation and restoration efforts.

Background:

IP-CAN should complement indigenous-led efforts working to address environmental degradation at local, sub-national, national, regional and international levels as well as efforts of U.S. federal agency to engage Tribal leaders and indigenous communities domestically. Many U.S. Federal agencies have their own efforts to engage Tribal issues; IP-CAN could facilitate increased interagency coordination of those efforts related to international issues.

IP-CAN Areas of work:

1. **Developing a List of Indigenous-led Conservation Organizations:** IP-CAN may facilitate the compilation of organizations globally working to promote Indigenous-led conservation through knowledge sharing, engagement, policy development, technical capacity building, and other means.
2. **Identifying Areas in Current Conservation Landscape:** IP-CAN may identify areas in the current global conservation landscape that affect indigenous stewardship of lands and waters and advise on possible areas for enhanced collaboration or capacity building.
3. **Network Building and Enhanced Engagement:** IP-CAN may facilitate ongoing virtual exchange among Indigenous Peoples globally and serve to strengthen connections and networks.
4. **Elevating Indigenous Knowledge:** IP-CAN should support the recognition of Indigenous Knowledge as a form of knowledge and evidence that can and should inform policy and decision making, where appropriate, and promote the protection of that knowledge

USG Partners: The IP-CAN is a proposal of the Department of State and the Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with the Department of the Interior. Additional agencies may be consulted when they have relevant capacity and programming depending on the priorities of the IP-CAN.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

May 10, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

The Honorable Buu Nygren
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a Dear Tribal Leader Letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs regarding the Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee. Nominations are being requested for committee members, to be submitted by May 26, 2023. Please review the enclosure for more information.

Sincerely,

**GREGORY
MEHOJAH**

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH

Date: 2023.05.10
15:49:51 -06'00'

Gregory C. Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

MAY 09 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

Your assistance is requested to help provide nominations for committee member(s) to the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) Coordinating Committee (Committee).

This process is governed by the notice published in the Federal Register¹ on September 8, 2005, establishing what is now known as the TTP Coordinating Committee (Committee). The focus of the Committee is to provide input and recommendation(s) to the Secretaries of Transportation and the Interior on transportation matters as described in 25 C.F.R. 170.135.² In 2016, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) published updated TTP regulations³ that, in part, modified the nomination processes and activities of the Committee.⁴

The Committee consists of 24 Tribal representatives (two from each BIA Region) and two non-voting Federal representatives, one each from the BIA and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The TTP regulations also provide that, for purposes of continuity, the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) will appoint the Tribal representatives to a three-year term.⁵

In consideration of these changes, it is requested that you provide nominations for one committee member from each of the twelve (12) BIA Regions. The terms of the appointees selected from this request will commence upon appointment and expire on September 30, 2025. The Secretary will accept nominations and appoint one (1) Tribal representative from among the official nominations received by Tribes located within the respective Regions.

The nominations must be transmitted on official Tribal government letterhead, signed by a Tribal government official who has been authorized in writing to submit the nominee on behalf of the Tribal government. Supporting documentation must include the nominee's resume detailing relevant education and training, current job description, and professional experience level in Tribal transportation program areas. Nominations must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 26, 2023.

Please send nominations to Mr. LeRoy Gishi, Chief, Division of Transportation, Office of Indian Services, BIA, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., MS 3645 MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240, or by email at: LeRoy.Gishi@bia.gov. You may also contact Mr. Gishi at (202) 513-7711 if you have any questions or need additional information

Sincerely,

Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

¹ 70 Fed. Reg. 53379 (September 8, 2005).

² Originally known as the "Indian Reservation Roads Program Coordinating Committee," it was renamed in 2012 after Section 1119 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), P.L. 112-141 (July 6, 2012), changed the name from "Indian Reservation Roads" program to the "Tribal Transportation Program."

³ 70 Fed. Reg. 78456 (November 7, 2016).

⁴ See 25 C.F.R. §§ 170.135 – 137.

⁵ 25 C.F.R. § 170.135(d).

housing loan guarantees, resident opportunity and support services.

(d) *Department of Labor.* Indian employment and training, welfare-to-work grants.

(e) *Department of Health and Human Services.* Programs for Indian elders, community service block grants, job opportunities for low-income individuals, Head Start (capital or operating), administration for Indian programs, Medicaid, HIV Care Grants, Healthy Start, and the Indian Health Service.

§ 170.133 May a Tribe or BIA use TTP funds as matching funds?

TTP funds may be used to meet matching or cost participation requirements for any Federal or non-Federal transit grant or program.

§ 170.134 What transit facilities and activities are eligible for TTP funding?

Transit facilities and activities eligible for TTP funding include, but are not limited to:

(a) Acquiring, constructing, operating, supervising or inspecting new, used or refurbished equipment, buildings, facilities, buses, vans, water craft, and other vehicles for use in public transportation;

(b) Transit-related intelligent transportation systems;

(c) Rehabilitating, remanufacturing, and overhauling a transit vehicle;

(d) Preventive maintenance;

(e) Leasing transit vehicles, equipment, buildings, and facilities for use in mass transportation;

(f) Third-party contracts for otherwise eligible transit facilities and activities;

(g) Public transportation improvements that enhance economic and community development, such as bus shelters in shopping centers, parking lots, pedestrian improvements, and support facilities that incorporate other community services;

(h) Passenger shelters, bus stop signs, and similar passenger amenities;

(i) Introduction of new public transportation technology;

(j) Provision of fixed route, demand response services, and non-fixed route paratransit transportation services;

(k) Radio and communication equipment to support Tribal transit programs;

(l) Transit; and

(m) Any additional activities authorized by 49 U.S.C. 5311.

TTP Coordinating Committee

§ 170.135 What is the TTP Coordinating Committee?

(a) Under this part, the Secretaries will establish a TTP Coordinating Committee that:

(1) Provides input and recommendations to BIA and FHWA in developing TTP regulations, policies and procedures; and

(2) Supplements government-to-government consultation by coordinating with and obtaining input from Tribes, BIA, and FHWA.

(b) The Committee consists of 24 Tribal regional representatives (two from each BIA Region) and two non-voting Federal representatives (FHWA and BIA).

(c) The Secretary must select the regional Tribal representatives from nominees officially submitted by the region's Tribes.

(1) To the extent possible, the Secretary must make the selection so that there is representation from a broad cross-section of large, medium, and small Tribes.

(2) Tribal nominees must be Tribal governmental officials or Tribal employees with authority to act for their Tribal government.

(d) For purposes of continuity, the Secretary will appoint the Tribal representatives to a three year term. The appointments will be carried out so that only one of a region's two representatives will be appointed in any one year. Should the Tribal appointment or employment of a committee representative terminate during his/her term, the representative must notify the Secretary of this change and his/her membership to the Committee will cease. Upon receipt of the notification, the Secretary will seek nominations from the region's Tribes to replace the representative for the remainder of the term.

(e) Should the need arise, the Secretary will replace representatives.

§ 170.136 What are the TTP Coordinating Committee's responsibilities?

(a) Committee responsibilities are to provide input and recommendations to BIA and FHWA during the development or revision of:

(1) BIA/FHWA TTP Stewardship Plan;

(2) TTP policy and procedures;

(3) TTP eligible activities determination;

(4) TTP transit policy;

(5) TTP regulations;

(6) TTP management systems policy and procedures; and

(7) National Tribal transportation needs.

(b) The Committee may establish work groups to carry out its responsibilities.

(c) The Committee also reviews and provides recommendations on TTP national concerns (including the

implementation of this part) brought to its attention.

(d) Committee members are responsible for disseminating TTP Coordinating Committee information and activities to Tribal leadership and transportation officials within their respective BIA Regions.

§ 170.137 How does the TTP Coordinating Committee conduct business?

The Committee holds at least two meetings a year. In order to maximize participation by the Tribal public, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary its proposed meeting dates and locations for each fiscal year no later than October 1st. Subject to approval by the Secretary, additional Committee meetings may be called with the consent of one-third of the Committee members, or by BIA or FHWA. The Committee conducts business at its meetings as follows:

(a) A quorum consists of representation from eight BIA Regions.

(b) The Committee will operate by consensus or majority vote, as determined by the Committee in its protocols.

(c) Any Committee member can submit an agenda item to the Chair.

(d) The Committee will work through a committee-approved annual work plan and budget.

(e) Annually, the Committee must elect from among the Committee membership a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and other officers. These officers will be responsible for preparing for and conducting Committee meetings and summarizing meeting results. These officers will also have other duties that the Committee may prescribe.

(f) The Committee must keep the Secretary and the Tribes informed through an annual accomplishment report provided within 90 days after the end of each fiscal year.

(g) The Committee's budget will be funded through the TTP management and oversight funds, not to exceed \$150,000 annually.

Tribal Technical Assistance Centers

§ 170.138 What are Tribal Technical Assistance Centers?

Tribal Technical Assistance Centers (TTAC), which are also referred to as Tribal Technical Assistance Program Centers are authorized under 23 U.S.C. 504(b)(3). The centers assist Tribal governments and other TTP participants in extending their technical capabilities by providing them greater access to transportation technology, training, and research opportunities. Complete information about the centers and the



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

May 17, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

The Honorable Buu Nygren
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary –Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Department of State regarding a series of listening sessions launched by the United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution.

Please review the enclosure for more information on the next virtual listening session on June 12, 2023.

Sincerely,

**GREGORY
MEHOJAH**

Gregory C. Mehojah
Regional Director

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH
Date: 2023.05.18
08:50:07 -06'00'

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation



United States Department of State

Washington, DC 20520

May 8, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader,

The U.S. Department of State, working with interagency partners, will lead a series of listening sessions in advance of the next session of negotiations on a new global agreement on plastic pollution, which were launched by United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution 5/14. The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) established for these negotiations was November 28 – December 2, 2022, in Punta del Este, Uruguay, and the next session will be May 29 – June 2, 2023, in Paris, France. There are three additional INC sessions planned between Fall 2023 and the end of 2024.

We invite you to participate in the next virtual listening session on June 12, 2023, from 4-5pm EDT. Please send any questions via email to tribalconsultation@state.gov.

Building on our previous listening session on November 2, we aim to continue to bring together Tribal leaders and scientific and technical experts, and U.S. Government representatives, to identify considerations as the U.S. Government develops its policy positions on potential provisions of a new global agreement on plastic pollution.

Background: On March 2, 2022, at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2), countries adopted Resolution 5/14, entitled *End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument* (attached). This resolution launched negotiations on an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the resolution outline key parts of the negotiating mandate, and we encourage Tribal Nations to review and consider these paragraphs in preparation for the June 12 consultation.

Below we highlight some of the key topics that fall within the negotiating mandate:

- Objectives of the instrument;
- National action plans reflecting country-driven approaches;
- Details of national reporting on implementation;
- The role of any scientific or economic assessments relating to plastic pollution;
- The role of awareness-raising and education;
- Arrangements for financial and technical assistance and capacity building; and
- Stakeholder engagement, including initiating a multi-stakeholder action agenda.

City/State	Dates	Location
Washington, D.C.	June 12, 2023; 4-5pm EDT	https://statedept.webex.com/join?MTID=mdc5feeb50753e20d7012ebc14adf98d0

Sincerely,



Jennifer R. Littlejohn
Acting Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Department of State

Approved: OES/E – Christine Dawson, Acting (ok)

Drafted: OES/ENV - Larke Williams, (202) 258-3317

Cleared:

OES/FO – Jonathan Gillibrand (ok)

OES/FO – Justin Kenney (info)

OES/ENV - Sherry Sykes (ok)

OES/ENV - Andrew Clark (ok)

L/OES - Gene Smilansky (ok)

L/HRR - Eric Merron (ok)

L/M - Alice Kottmyer (ok)

OES/PPO - Vanessa Adams (ok)

DRL/MLGA - Lilly Calafell (ok)



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

May 17, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

The Honorable Buu Nygren
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs as on the Small Tribes Supplement Consultations and the proposed FY 2023 Small Tribes Supplement distributions. Please review the enclosure for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Shyla Joe by email at shyla.joe@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

**GREGORY
MEHOJAH**

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH
Date: 2023.05.18
08:54:33 -06'00'

Gregory C. Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAY - 5 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

As requested by Tribes in the Small Tribe Supplement (STS) Consultations held in August 2022, and as directed by congressional language in the FY 2023 Appropriations bill, we are posting a report of the methodologies used for FY 2021, 2022, and the proposed FY 2023 Small Tribes Supplement distributions on the Bureau of Indian Affairs' webpage.

You may find the posting at this link: <https://www.bia.gov/service/tribal-consultations/small-tribe-supplement>. The reports are also enclosed to this letter.

If you have questions regarding the STS program, please contact Ms. Shyla Joe by email at shyla.joe@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosures:

- (1) STS Directives Report-21-22-23
- (2) STS 21-22-23 Distribution Table

Small Tribe Supplement Distributions for 2021, 2022 & 2023

In response to requests at Tribal consultation in FY 2022 and as outlined in congressional directive within the FY 2023 appropriation language, Indian Affairs is providing this outline of criteria used to distribute the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Small Tribes Supplement (STS) funding along with a chart of distributions by Tribe for all three years.

Criteria for Distribution:

FY 2021

In FY 2021, the first criterion for STS distribution was enrollment levels which were determined by the FY 2021 Tribal Enrollment Collection. All Tribes with enrollment levels of 1,700 or less from the Enrollment Collection were outlined to be eligible on the basis of enrollment. The second criterion was base funding levels. Tribal Base funding was determined by each BIA Region and certified by the Servicing BIA Regional Director with input from the IA Office of Self Governance and the IA Office of Budget and Performance Management. Base funding levels included all Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) programs except Welfare Assistance, Road Maintenance, and the Housing Program, as these programs are not base funded but distributed by formula annually. Once base funding amounts were established, all Tribes with base funding above \$160K in the lower 48 and above \$200K in Alaska were removed. This left 108 Tribes eligible for funding up to the \$160K and \$200K base levels.

FY 2022

In FY 2022, the distribution was once again based upon the FY 2021 Enrollment Collection. All Tribes with enrollment under 1,700 were pulled to a spreadsheet. For the second criterion, Tribal base funding was compiled from the Official TPA Tables and the Self-Governance Database. These base numbers included all TPA lines except Welfare Assistance, Road Maintenance, and the Housing Program. Once the base funding amounts were entered into the worksheet, all Tribes that exceeded the 160-base level in the lower 48 and all entities in AK that exceeded the 200-base level were moved down on the calculation sheet to calculate distributions to the \$160K and \$200K base funding levels. Once this was done, calculations to equitably disburse the increase in funding for FY 2022, were done by increasing both base levels by the same level of funding and adding back in Tribes that were now within the new base level threshold. We were able to raise the base funding level to \$187.3 thousand for the lower 48 and \$227.3 thousand for AK which provided an equitable increase of \$27.3 thousand to both base funding levels. This increase in base funding levels increased the number of eligible Tribes to 159 that would receive funding.

FY 2023

In FY 2023, the distributions continued to use the FY 2021 Enrollment Collection and the base funding levels were once again those pulled from the Official TPA Tables and the OSG Database and they did not include Welfare Assistance, Road Maintenance and the Housing Program. While the STS funding level for FY 2023 remained the same as FY 2022, adjustments were made to base funding levels for recently federally recognized Tribes that now have their "New

Tribes” funding base transferred and for Tribes that had base amounts that exceeded the threshold. These adjustments allowed us to bring the overall base funding levels up to \$192.9 thousand for the lower 48 and \$232.9 thousand for Alaska, which is an increase of \$5.6 thousand to both base funding levels over the FY 2022 increase. This increase in base funding levels increased the number of eligible Tribes to 169 that would receive funding.

The attached table outlines the funding distributions by Tribe for all three years.

INDIAN AFFAIRS
SMALL TRIBES SUPPLEMENT DISTRIBUTIONS

REGION/OSG	TRIBE NAME	2021 Total Base	FY 2021 STS DISTRIBUTION 160/200	2022 Total Base	FY 2022 STS DISTRIBUTION 187/227	2022 Total Base*	FY 2023 STS PROPOSED 192/232
B - SOUTHERN PLAINS	Sac & Fox Tribe of Missouri in Kansas & Nebraska	181,443		189,215		189,215	3,691
E - ALASKA	Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove	191,878	8,122	197,180	30,175	197,180	35,726
E - ALASKA	Akiachak Native Community	199,715	285	213,005	14,350	213,005	19,901
E - ALASKA	Akiak Native Community	199,530	470	203,613	23,742	203,613	29,293
E - ALASKA	Angoon Community Association (IRA)	184,845	15,155	199,530	27,825	199,530	33,376
E - ALASKA	Arctic Village	142,039	57,961	157,438	69,917	157,438	75,468
E - ALASKA	Beaver Village	213,918		221,789	5,566	221,789	11,117
E - ALASKA	Chalkyitsik Village	207,197		216,150	11,205	216,150	16,756
E - ALASKA	Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan)	200,684		210,231	17,124	210,231	22,675
E - ALASKA	Chuloonawick Native Village	179,231	20,769	183,271	44,084	183,271	49,635
E - ALASKA	Craig Tribal Association	156,472		170,154	57,201	170,154	62,752
E - ALASKA	Douglas Indian Association (IRA)	157,396	43,528	186,640	40,715	186,640	46,266
E - ALASKA	Eklutna Native Village	169,614	64,150	177,978	49,377	177,978	54,928
E - ALASKA	Kaguyak Village	151,882	48,118	154,651	72,704	154,651	78,255
E - ALASKA	Kaktovik Village	145,590	54,410	154,239	73,116	154,239	78,667
E - ALASKA	Kasigluk Traditional Elders Council	154,114	45,886	164,422	62,933	164,422	68,484
E - ALASKA	King Salmon Tribe	175,689	24,311	183,512	43,843	183,512	49,394
E - ALASKA	Kokhanok Village	192,362	7,638	200,170	27,185	200,170	32,736
E - ALASKA	Mentasta Traditional Council	173,860	26,140	183,446	43,909	183,446	49,460
E - ALASKA	Naknek Native Village	204,306		213,481	13,874	213,481	19,425
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Afognak	155,130	44,870	161,607	65,748	161,607	71,299
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Akhiok	162,336	37,664	170,411	56,944	170,411	62,495
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Ambler	210,834		218,846	8,509	218,846	14,060
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Atkasuk (Atkasook)	129,445	70,555	142,988	84,367	142,988	89,918
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Buckland	220,673		230,010		230,010	2,896
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Cantwell	183,037	16,963	184,901	42,454	184,901	48,005
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Chitina	172,937	27,063	181,337	46,018	181,337	51,569
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Chuathbaluk	210,571		219,882	7,473	219,882	13,024
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Deering	224,094		226,153	1,202	226,153	6,753
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Eagle	221,655		223,332	4,023	223,332	9,574
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Gakona	213,193		216,186	11,169	216,186	16,720
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Georgetown	182,873	17,127	186,061	41,294	186,061	46,845
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Karluk	155,762	44,238	163,817	63,538	163,817	69,089
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Kobuk	211,646		219,674	7,681	219,674	13,232
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Kwigillingok	186,724	13,276	203,134	24,221	203,134	29,772
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Larsen Bay	167,284	32,716	175,707	51,648	175,707	57,199
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Marshall	207,496		213,495	13,860	213,495	19,411
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Mekoryuk	188,257	11,743	197,928	29,427	197,928	34,978
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Napaskiak	206,488		219,500	7,855	219,500	13,406
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Nulikut	114,146	85,854	121,737	105,618	121,737	111,169
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Ouzinkie	168,327	31,673	177,400	49,955	177,400	55,506
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Paimiut	181,751	18,249	185,119	42,236	185,119	47,787
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Point Lay	138,027	61,973	146,856	80,499	146,856	86,050
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Port Heiden	157,077	42,923	169,359	57,996	169,359	63,547
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Port Lions	185,996	14,004	193,016	34,339	193,016	39,890
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Tazlina	158,816	41,184	167,974	59,381	167,974	64,932
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Tyonek	166,628	33,372	175,443	51,912	175,443	57,463
E - ALASKA	Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government		66978				
E - ALASKA	Newhalen Village	165,158	34,842	175,393	51,962	175,393	57,513
E - ALASKA	Newtok Traditional Council	181,583	18,417	185,080	42,275	185,080	47,826
E - ALASKA	Nondalton Village	160,597	39,403	169,400	57,955	169,400	63,506
E - ALASKA	Northway Village	200,927		215,281	12,074	215,281	17,625
E - ALASKA	Pedro Bay Village	199,286	714	211,432	15,923	211,432	21,474
E - ALASKA	Petersburg Indian Association	190,376	9,624	195,089	32,266	195,089	37,817
E - ALASKA	Salamatoff Tribe	166,896	33,104	165,330	62,025	165,330	67,576
E - ALASKA	Skagway Village	152,789	47,211	162,211	65,144	162,211	70,695
E - ALASKA	South Naknek Village	205,009		215,319	12,036	215,319	17,587
E - ALASKA	Tanqirnaq Native Village (Lesnoi Village/Woody Island)	148,914	51,086	150,984	76,371	150,984	81,922
E - ALASKA	Umkumiut Native Village	196,779	3,221	201,239	26,116	201,239	31,667
E - ALASKA	Village of Anaktuvuk Pass	175,859	59,849	148,970	78,385	148,970	83,936
E - ALASKA	Village of Aniak	177,031	24,141	185,256	42,099	185,256	47,650
E - ALASKA	Village of Atmautluak	163,143	22,969	185,096	42,259	185,096	47,810
E - ALASKA	Village of Cheforak	222,326		229,511		229,511	3,395
E - ALASKA	Village of Dot Lake	188,996	16,031	204,419	22,936	204,419	28,487
E - ALASKA	Village of Iliamna	178,406	11,004	200,361	26,994	200,361	32,545
E - ALASKA	Village of Old Harbor	192,028	21,594	189,083	38,272	189,083	43,823
E - ALASKA	Village of Venetie	140,151	167,465	44,291	183,064	44,291	188,615
E - ALASKA	Village of Wainwright	162,249	37,751	170,276	57,079	170,276	62,630
E - ALASKA	Wrangell Cooperative Association	185,272	14,728	214,807	12,548	214,807	18,099
F - MIDWEST	Prairie Island Indian Community	189,364		191,062		191,062	1,844
F - MIDWEST	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	170,600	3,336	170,832	16,521	170,832	22,074
H - WESTERN	Fort McDowell Mohave-Apache Indian Community	43,222	116,778	51,027	136,326	51,027	141,879
H - WESTERN	Las Vegas Paiute Indians	150,622	9,378	160,757	26,596	160,757	32,149
H - WESTERN	Moapa Band of Paiute Indians	175,826		188,623		188,623	4,283
H - WESTERN	San Juan Southern Paiute		160000	242,000	160000	242,000	
H - WESTERN	Skull Valley Band of Goshute Tribe	171,591		182,731	4,622	182,731	10,175

*2023 OSG base numbers were not available to do 2023 calculations so 2022 base funding numbers were used to calculate 2023 distributions.

INDIAN AFFAIRS
SMALL TRIBES SUPPLEMENT DISTRIBUTIONS

REGION/OSG	TRIBE NAME	2021 Total Base	FY 2021 STS DISTRIBUTION 160/200	2022 Total Base	FY 2022 STS DISTRIBUTION 187/227	2022 Total Base*	FY 2023 STS PROPOSED 192/232
H - WESTERN	Summit Lake Paiute Tribe	177,846		180,777	6,576	180,777	12,129
H - WESTERN	Tonto-Apache Tribe of Arizona	144,719	15,281	151,956	35,397	151,956	40,950
H - WESTERN	Winnemucca Indian Colony of Nevada	28,775	131,225	29,653	157,700	29,653	163,253
H - WESTERN	Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe	153,809	6,191	162,552	24,801	162,552	30,354
H - WESTERN	Yerington Paiute Tribe	256,796	24,556	280,689	24,556	280,689	
H - WESTERN	Yomba Shoshone Tribe	129,586	32,866	136,454	50,899	136,454	56,452
J - PACIFIC	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	152,856	7,144	155,924	31,429	155,924	36,982
J - PACIFIC	Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians	176,896		182,268	5,085	182,268	10,638
J - PACIFIC	Barona Band of Mission Indians	167,028		170,634	16,719	170,634	22,272
J - PACIFIC	Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians	190,989	30,386	191,249		191,249	1,657
J - PACIFIC	Jackson Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians	154,698		163,525	23,828	163,525	29,381
J - PACIFIC	La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	173,605		178,601	8,752	178,601	14,305
J - PACIFIC	Lytton Rancheria	191,831		191,831		191,831	1,075
J - PACIFIC	Ramona Band of Mission Indians	168,627		170,041	17,312	170,041	22,865
J - PACIFIC	Rumsey Rancheria of Wintun Indians	192,190		192,190		192,190	716
J - PACIFIC	San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	163,450		173,508	13,845	173,508	19,398
J - PACIFIC	San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	163,662		170,274	17,079	170,274	22,632
J - PACIFIC	Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	186,723		191,664		191,664	1,242
J - PACIFIC	Santa Rosa Rancheria	167,095		172,404	14,949	172,404	20,502
J - PACIFIC	Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	163,388		173,556	13,797	173,556	19,350
J - PACIFIC	Tejon Indian Tribe	159,211	6,091	160,764	26,589	160,764	32,142
J - PACIFIC	Twenty Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	179,484		188,099		188,099	4,807
J - PACIFIC	United Auburn Indian Community	175,166		175,166	12,187	175,166	17,740
J - PACIFIC	Viejas Band of Mission Indians	143,284		149,106	38,247	149,106	43,800
J - PACIFIC	Wilton Miwok Rancheria	163,259		170,325	17,028	170,325	22,581
M - SOUTHWEST	Pueblo of Santa Ana	216,881	13,772	236,527	13,772	236,527	
OSG	Alatna Village	195,780	4,220	195,780	31,575	195,780	37,126
OSG	Asa'carsarmiut Tribe (Native Village of Mountain Village)	210,404		217,097	10,258	217,097	15,809
OSG	Birch Creek Tribe	194,821	5,179	194,821	32,534	194,821	38,085
OSG	Cheesh-Na Tribe (formerly Native Village of Chistochina)	193,772	6,228	195,087	32,268	195,087	37,819
OSG	Chickaloon Lagoon Native Village	211,334	53,076	222,692	4,663	222,692	10,214
OSG	Chignik Bay Tribal Council	146,924	53,076	146,924	80,431	146,924	85,982
OSG	Chignik Lake Village	165,458	34,542	165,458	61,897	165,458	67,448
OSG	Chilkoot Indian Association (Haines)	202,206		202,206	25,149	202,206	30,700
OSG	Circle Native Community	199,272	728	199,272	28,083	199,272	33,634
OSG	Egegik Village	135,850	42,604	135,850	91,505	135,850	97,056
OSG	Evansville Village	199,835	165	199,835	27,520	199,835	33,071
OSG	Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, California	167,476		172,540	14,813	172,540	20,366
OSG	Gulkana Village Council	183,610	16,390	192,732	34,623	192,732	40,174
OSG	Healy Lake Village	199,913	87	197,869	29,486	197,869	35,037
OSG	Iglugig Village	200,921		208,913	18,442	208,913	23,993
OSG	Ivanof Bay Tribe	120,129	79,871	120,129	107,226	120,129	112,777
OSG	Levelock Village	158,435	41,565	158,435	68,920	158,435	74,471
OSG	Lime Village	218,841		219,277	8,078	219,277	13,629
OSG	Manokotak Village	197,270	2,730	197,270	30,085	197,270	35,636
OSG	Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi of Michigan	180,549		187,390		187,390	5,516
OSG	McGrath Native Village	188,770	11,230	188,840	38,515	188,840	44,066
OSG	Native Village of Belkofski	221,759	36,857	221,759	5,596	221,759	11,147
OSG	Native Village of Chenega	196,162	3,838	196,162	31,193	196,162	36,744
OSG	Native Village of Chignik Lagoon	146,924		146,924	80,431	146,924	85,982
OSG	Native Village of Council	205,153		205,153	22,202	205,153	27,753
OSG	Native Village of Ekuk	123,198	76,802	123,198	104,157	123,198	109,708
OSG	Native Village of Ekwo	156,783	43,217	156,783	70,572	156,783	76,123
OSG	Native Village of Eyak (Cordova)	165,256	34,744	166,578	60,777	166,578	66,328
OSG	Native Village of Hamilton	188,032	11,968	188,032	39,323	188,032	44,874
OSG	Native Village of Kanatak	152,876	47,124	152,876	74,479	152,876	80,030
OSG	Native Village of Mary's Igloo	217,918		217,918	9,437	217,918	14,988
OSG	Native Village of Napaimute	198,471	1,529	198,471	28,884	198,471	34,435
OSG	Native Village of Napakiak	222,593		222,593	4,762	222,593	10,313
OSG	Native Village of Perryville	140,265	59,735	140,265	87,090	140,265	92,641
OSG	Native Village of Pilot Point	96,716	103,284	96,716	130,639	96,716	136,190
OSG	Native Village of Shungnak	179,497	20,503	179,497	47,858	179,497	53,409
OSG	Native Village of Tatitlek	211,622		211,622	15,733	211,622	21,284
OSG	Native Village of Tetlin	182,068	17,932	175,857	51,498	175,857	57,049
OSG	Native Village of Unga	211,452		211,452	15,903	211,452	21,454
OSG	New Koliganek Village Council	207,322		207,322	20,033	207,322	25,584
OSG	New Stuyahok Village	102,896	97,104	106,925	120,430	106,925	125,981
OSG	Ninilchik Village	198,280	1,720	202,124	25,231	202,124	30,782
OSG	Organized Village of Kasaan	223,085		226,612	743	226,612	6,294
OSG	Organized Village of Saxman	217,865		217,865	9,490	217,865	15,041
OSG	Oscarville Traditional Village	190,045	9,955	190,045	37,310	190,045	42,861
OSG	Pauloff Harbor Village	165,381	34,619	165,381	61,974	165,381	67,525
OSG	Platinum Traditional Village	226,217		226,217	1,138	226,217	6,689
OSG	Portage Creek Village	134,167	65,833	134,167	93,188	134,167	98,739
OSG	Seldovia Village Tribe	210,376		218,853	8,502	218,853	14,053
OSG	Shageluk Native Village	232,299		232,299		232,299	607

*2023 OSG base numbers were not available to do 2023 calculations so 2022 base funding numbers were used to calculate 2023 distributions.

INDIAN AFFAIRS
SMALL TRIBES SUPPLEMENT DISTRIBUTIONS

REGION/OSG	TRIBE NAME	2021 Total Base	FY 2021 STS DISTRIBUTION 160/200	2022 Total Base	FY 2022 STS DISTRIBUTION 187/227	2022 Total Base*	FY 2023 STS PROPOSED 192/232
OSG	Takotna Village	192,804	7,196	192,804	34,551	192,804	40,102
OSG	Telida Village	199,129	871	199,129	28,226	199,129	33,777
OSG	Traditional Village of Togiak	224,064		221,981	5,374	221,981	10,925
OSG	Tuluksak Native Community	223,317		223,317	4,038	223,317	9,589
OSG	Twin Hills Village	137,371	62,629	137,371	89,984	137,371	95,535
OSG	Village of Bill Moore's Slough	111,042		168,672	58,683	168,672	64,234
OSG	Village of Clarks Point	183,969	88,958	111,042	116,313	111,042	121,864
OSG	Village of Lower Kalskag	230,708		230,708		230,708	2,198
OSG	Village of Red Devil	32,535	7,972	192,028	35,327	192,028	40,878
OSG	Village of Solomon	212,965		212,965	14,390	212,965	19,941
OSG	Village of Stony River	204,879		204,879	22,476	204,879	28,027
P - NORTHWEST	Hoh Indian Tribe	132,919	39,933	143,329	44,024	143,329	49,577
P - NORTHWEST	Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe of Washington	178,331		183,754	3,599	183,754	9,152
P - NORTHWEST	Upper Skagit Indian Tribe of Washington	148,256	37,640	163,569	37,640	163,569	29,337
S - EASTERN	Chickahominy Indian Tribe	3,948	156,052	168,947	156,052	168,947	23,959
S - EASTERN	Chickahominy Indian Tribe Eastern Division	3,948	156,052	168,508	156,052	168,508	24,398
S - EASTERN	Nansemond Indian Tribe	3,260	156,740	168,259	156,740	168,259	24,647
S - EASTERN	Pamunkey Indian Tribe	163,293		166,887	20,466	166,887	26,019
S - EASTERN	Rappahannock Tribe, Inc.	3,948	156,052	168,947	156,052	168,947	23,959
S - EASTERN	Shinnecock Indian Nation of Southampton	163,784		168,652	18,701	168,652	24,254
S - EASTERN	Upper Mattaponi Tribe	3,948	156,052	168,947	156,052	168,947	23,959

*2023 OSG base numbers were not available to do 2023 calculations so 2022 base funding numbers were used to calculate 2023 distributions.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

May 23, 2023

Electronic Transmission

The Honorable Buu Nygren
President, Navajo Nation
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs. The White House and White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA) are inviting you to a virtual engagement session with WHCNAA leadership on May 30, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., EST, to discuss the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117 – 169) and its expansive scope of benefits to Tribal Nations and Native communities. Please see the enclosed for more information on the registration link.

Sincerely,

GREGORY MEHOJAH

Gregory C. Mehojah
Regional Director

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH
Date: 2023.05.24 09:10:30
-06'00'

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation



May 23, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

The White House and White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA) invites you to a virtual engagement session with WHCNAA leadership on May 30, 2023, 12:00pm – 1:30pm EST, to discuss the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117 – 169) and its expansive scope of benefits to Tribal Nations and Native communities. The Inflation Reduction Act is the most significant piece of clean energy and climate legislation in U.S. history with [hundreds of millions of dollars exclusively](#) for Tribal Nations and Native Communities.

Date: May 30, 2023

Time: 12:00 PM ET- 1:30 PM ET

Registration link:

https://pita.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_27Q7kXEuRqypmcIg-G4YIw

As WHCNAA co-chair, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Deb Haaland will convene the virtual Tribal engagement session with participation from U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan, and Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation John Podesta.

During this engagement session, the Biden-Harris Administration will share the latest updates on the Inflation Reduction Act, as well as highlight funding opportunities, new and improved federal programs, technical assistance resources, and the recently announced [Inflation Reduction Act Tribal Guidebook](#). Tribal leaders are invited to share their input and priorities on how the Inflation Reduction Act can best meet the needs of their communities.

The agenda and framing questions for the session are attached. Materials will also be available on the WHCNAA website (www.bia.gov/whcnaa). Tribal leaders are welcome to send written responses to the framing questions to whcnaa@bia.gov.

We forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

PaaWee Rivera
Senior Advisor and Director of Tribal Affairs
White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

White House Council on Native American Affairs

Tribal Leader Engagement Session

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_27Q7kXEuRqypmclg-G4YIw

- I. Opening by WHCNAA Co-Chair
- II. Updates from Biden Administration on Inflation Reduction Act Implementation
- III. Tribal Leader Discussion
- IV. Closing

White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA)
Tribal Leader Engagement Session on the Inflation Reduction Act
May 30, 2023
Framing Questions

1. What type of technical assistance do you need to better access and use the resources of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)?
2. What are the early successes you have experienced with using the IRA funding?
3. What are the challenges you have experienced in using the IRA funding?
4. How can federal agencies be more responsive to your needs in the implementation of the IRA?
5. Are there additional legislative/regulatory/policy changes you recommend to better implement the IRA for Indian Country?



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

May 25, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

The Honorable Buu Nygren
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs inviting you to submit a Letter of Intent to be considered for inclusion in the Tiwahe Initiative demonstration project. Enclosed is the Selection Framework and guidance on development for a Letter of Intent.

A webinar is scheduled for interested applicants on June 21, 2023, at 3 p.m. Eastern. Please review the enclosure for more information.

Sincerely,

**GREGORY
MEHOJAH**

Digitally signed by
GREGORY
MEHOJAH
Date: 2023.05.25
12:08:58 -06'00'

Gregory C. Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

MAY 23 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

I invite you to submit a Letter of Intent to be considered for inclusion in the Tiwahe Initiative demonstration project. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is seeking to add two new demonstration sites to the Tiwahe Initiative and is seeking Letters of Intent from interested Tribes and Tribal Organizations.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, the BIA launched the Tiwahe Initiative as a pilot program to support tribes and Tribal organizations in their efforts to improve the health and well-being of families and Tribal communities. The Tiwahe Initiative is made up of several Human Services and Public Safety and Justice program components, which work together to protect and promote the development of prosperous and resilient Tribal communities.

Tiwahe is an extensive and bold approach to furthering Indian Self-Determination and Self-Governance. The Tiwahe model is effective because it allows Tribes to create their own potential by building communities of hope through cultivating culture and connection. Tiwahe provides freedom to design programs and integrate services within Tribal culture and tradition to produce powerful outcomes beneficial to Tribal communities and families living there. Thus, it allows flexibility in the administration of key Tribal programs, supports Tribal economic self-sufficiency, and strengthens Tribal cultural connections. Tiwahe fosters systemic change in the delivery of services to children and families through the integration of Tribal practices, customs, values, and traditions. Tiwahe offers Tribal organizations the flexibility to design programming and services to address the gaps and needs of its communities. Tiwahe focuses on improving collaboration and coordination across six core programs: Social Services, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) programs, Tribal Courts, Pathways to Wellness – Recidivism Reduction, Housing, and Job Placement and Training. Funding for the FY 23 expansion may be used to support programming or planning under the Social Service and/or ICWA program areas.

Enclosed is the Selection Framework, which should guide your development of the Letter of Intent, as well as the Selection Criteria, in which the reviewers will use to assess Letters of Intent. The Letters of Intent will be reviewed by members from the current demonstration sites and by BIA representatives to determine inclusion in the Tiwahe Initiative demonstration.

Letters of Intent should address the following:

- Background of the Tribal Organization.
- Description of the issues that the Tribal Organization would use Tiwahe funding to address. What are the Tribal Organization's priorities?
- Description of how Tiwahe funding would be used to address the identified issues. What are the Tribal Organization's proposed outcomes? How would Tiwahe funding shape the future for the Tribal Organization's community and families?

Letters of Intent may be submitted to Meghan Bishop, Policy Specialist to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, by email at: meghan.bishop@bia.gov from June 1, 2023, through August 31, 2023. You may also contact Ms. Bishop at (202) 208-7163 if you have any questions.

The Tiwahe Initiative Congressional Report is available at: <https://www.bia.gov/ois/tiwahe>. We strongly recommend reviewing the Congressional Report prior to submitting your Letter of Intent.

In addition, the BIA will hold a Letter of Intent solicitation-specific webinar for interested applicants on June 21, 2023, at 3 pm Eastern. Please register at: https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_zzstTLXWQ9WJA_wjpJBjVw

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Newland".

Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary — Indian Affairs

Enclosures

Tiwahe Initiative Selection Framework

Description:

The U.S. Department of the Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is seeking Letters of Intent (LOIs) from Tribes or Tribal organizations (together, "Tribe") interested in participating in an expansion of the Tiwahe Initiative. Tiwahe, meaning "family" in Lakota, is about possibility. Launched in 2015, the Tiwahe Initiative includes 6 pilot Tribes representing a total of 61 Federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Native villages. This innovative program empowers federally recognized Tribes to realize their potential by affording Tribes the flexibility to direct Tiwahe Initiative funding where it is most needed.

The Tiwahe Initiative is an extensive and bold approach to furthering Indian self-determination and self-governance. It allows flexibility in the administration of key Tribal programs, supports Tribal economic self-sufficiency, and strengthens Tribal cultural connections. The Tiwahe Initiative fosters systemic change in the delivery of services to children and families through the integration of Tribal practices, customs, values, and traditions. Additionally, the Tiwahe Initiative offers participants the flexibility to design programming and services to address the gaps and needs of their communities by focusing on improving collaboration and coordination across six core programs: Social Services, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) programs, Tribal Courts, Law Enforcement - Recidivism Reduction, Housing, and Job Placement and Training. Funding for the FY 23 expansion may be used to support programming or planning under the Social Service and/or ICWA program areas.

The Tiwahe Initiative model is effective because it allows Tribes to create their own potential and provides freedom to design programs and integrate services using an outcomes-based approach, rooted in cultural values and traditions, to support well-being outcomes that meet the aspirations of American Indian and Alaska Native families. The Tiwahe Initiative should be understood as the sum of all its parts, including investment in a specialized workforce, research and development, data capability and information technology infrastructure, cross-agency Tribal partnerships, and funding and contracting systems that promote collaboration rather than competition.

Building off the success of the six pilot Tribal demonstration sites, the Tiwahe Initiative added two new Tribal demonstration sites and provided one-time, non-reoccurring planning funding to an additional 10 Tribes in 2023. To continue to expand the demonstration program, BIA will be adding an additional two demonstrations sites in 2023. BIA is soliciting LOIs from Tribes interested in joining this innovative and impactful Initiative. The selection process and selection framework are outlined below. Please address any questions or comments to Meghan Bishop, Policy Specialist to the Assistant Secretary — Indian Affairs at 202-208-7163 or via email: meghan.bishop@bia.gov.

Selection Process:

LOIs are due by 11:59pm Eastern on August 31, 2023. The Letters will be reviewed by representatives from BIA and current Tiwahe demonstration sites. The initial review by the selection team will be blind, ensuring that no applicant Tribe is unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged. **Please email the LOI along with the Tiwahe Face Sheet to Meghan Bishop, Policy Specialist to the Assistant Secretary — Indian Affairs at meghan.bishop@bia.gov.**

Selection Framework:

Letters of Intent should address the following:

- Background of the Tribe.
- Description of the issues that the Tribe would use Tiwahe funding to address including the Tribe's priorities?
- Description of how Tiwahe funding would be used to address the issue. What are the Tribe's proposed outcomes? How would Tiwahe funding shape the future for the Tribe's community and families?

FAQ:

What level of readiness is required to be considered for inclusion in the Tiwahe Initiative?

The Tribe should identify the goals and/or outcomes that they would like to achieve through participation in the Tiwahe Initiative. Additional considerations for selection may include Tribal leadership interest, community support for change, and the willingness of the Tribe to be an active partner in the Tiwahe Initiative. It is important that the LOI indicate how the Tribe's needs and outcomes/goals align with the mission and purpose of the Tiwahe Initiative as described in Appendix 3 of the 2021 Congressional Report Tiwahe Outcomes Framework at

<https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/files/dup/assets/bia/ois/dhs/4%20-%20Appendix%203%20-%20Tiwahe%20Outcomes%20Framework.pdf>

Does a Tribe need to present a comprehensive plan to be selected?

No. Once selected, BIA and the current demonstration sites will work closely with the new Tribes to develop their comprehensive plan to address the Tribe's priorities.

How can the Tiwahe funding be used by the Tribe?

Tiwahe Initiative funding can be used to sustain existing services and/or enhance services to children, youth, and families. Each Tribe is required to hire a Family Advocacy Coordinator (FAC) to ensure the approved Tiwahe Initiative plan is implemented by the participant and to work with the National Tiwahe Initiative Coordinator. The funding to hire the FAC will be provided through the Tiwahe Initiative allocation. Additionally, new Tiwahe Initiative demonstration sites will have the flexibility to utilize their allocation of funds to support the Social Service and ICWA Tiwahe Initiative components. Tiwahe Initiative funding is recurring and will be added to the Tribe's Tribal Priority Allocation base amount for Social Services and ICWA upon successful completion of the demonstration period.

What programs is Tiwahe currently supporting?

The Tiwahe Initiative currently funds services involving six core programs - Housing, Social Services, Job Placement and Training, ICWA, Recidivism Reduction, and Tribal Courts. The BIA is requesting additional appropriations to expand the Tiwahe Initiative services to include a seventh program, Economic Development. If successful, this will support Tribes in developing and operating comprehensive, integrated economic and community development programs.

Information on the programs Tiwahe is supporting can be found in the 2021 Congressional Report at www.bia.gov/ois/tiwahe.

Does the Tribe need to be self-governance to be eligible for the Tiwahe Initiative?

No. Self-governance compact, self-determination contract, and direct-service Tribes are all eligible for the Tiwahe Initiative. The current Tiwahe Initiative demonstration sites include both self-governance compact and self-determination contract Tribes. Spirit Lake, currently a self-determination contract Tribe, began the pilot as a BIA direct-service Tribe. Self-determination contract Tribes will be required to have a statement of work and a budget justification, in addition to the Tiwahe Initiative Plan, to obtain Tiwahe Initiative funding. The BIA will work with self-determination contract Tribes to develop these additional documents.

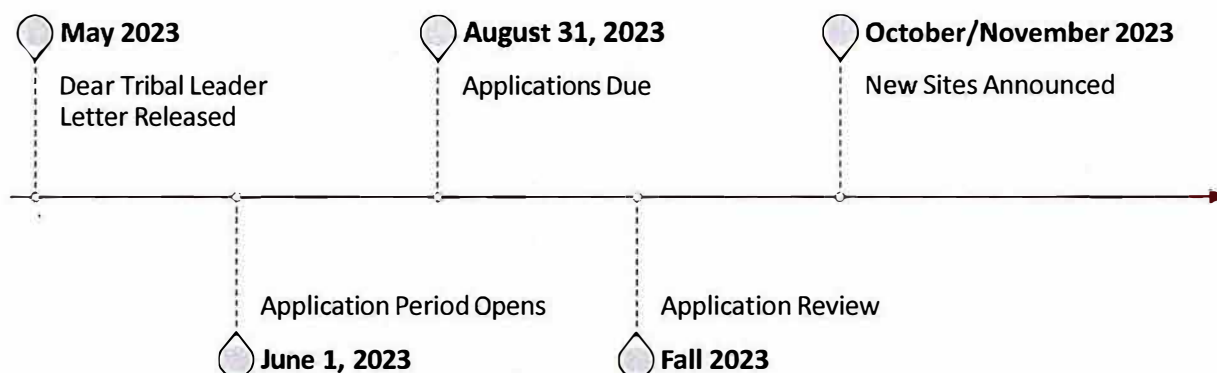
Is a Tribal resolution required to be considered for the Tiwahe Initiative?

No, not at the time the LOI is submitted. When the Tribes are selected, they will be sent a formal invitation to the Tiwahe Initiative. A Tribal resolution will be required at that time to become involved with the Tiwahe Initiative.

Will the Tribe be required to submit a new LOI if the Tribe is not selected at this time?

No. Letters of Intent provided subject to this round will be maintained on file. The BIA is requesting additional appropriations to further expand the Tiwahe Initiative. If the request is approved and the Tiwahe Initiative is expanded, the BIA will reach out to the Tribes with LOIs on file to confirm continued interest in becoming part of the program. Tribes may update their LOI at that time, if needed.

Timeline:



TIWAHE SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

This document serves as guidance for Tribes or Tribal Organizations (together “Tribe”) wishing to apply for Tiwahe. The below considerations were developed by the BIA and Tiwahe Demonstration Tribes to guide the review of the Letters of Intent. The considerations focus on Tribal Governance, Willingness to Implement the Tiwahe Framework, and Background and Demographics. Each consideration area is tied to findings from the 2021 Tiwahe Congressional Report¹. No single consideration is dispositive for inclusion in Tiwahe. Instead, as stated in the Selection Framework FAQ:

“The Tribe should identify their goals and/or outcomes that they would like to achieve through participation in Tiwahe. Additional considerations for selection may include Tribal leadership interest, community support for change, and the willingness for the Tribe to be an active partner in the Tiwahe Initiative.”

GOVERNANCE

Tribe’s Priorities

- Align with Tiwahe funding lines² and Outcomes Framework
- Drive a Common Agenda³ across the Tribe’s departments utilizing Tiwahe funding lines
- Truly ready to make systemic change and implement new programming
- Overall vision statement

Tribal Governance and Transformation

- Willingness to challenge existing thinking and thought to traditional and cultural family well-being outcomes.⁴
- Active Partner and leadership of Tribal Council to drive transformation for Tiwahe.⁵
- Willingness to “break down silos that exist between programs and activities...”⁶
- Willingness to transform programs and activities “...in such a way that they help and enhance one another.”⁷

¹Tiwahe Report to the Congress, December 2021, <https://www.bia.gov/ois/tiwahe>

² Funding Lines – Social Services, ICWA, Tribal Courts, Job Placement Training (JPT), Housing (HIP)

³ Common Agenda – Tribe’s departments, programs, and activities “...share...common goals and purpose...but ascertain the methods, actions, and outcomes in their own way.” (“Appendix 3: Tiwahe Outcomes Framework - Preface”, P2)

⁴ Appendix 3: Tiwahe Outcomes Framework – Preface, P2

⁵ Appendix 3: Tiwahe Outcomes Framework, P40 – “To be successful, the Framework requires the commitment and leadership of (Tribal Council and Leadership), Congress and Federal Government through a shared vision and willingness to achieve the strategies contained therein.”

⁶ Appendix 3: Tiwahe Outcomes Framework – Preface, P2

⁷ Appendix 3: Tiwahe Outcomes Framework – Preface, P2

IMPLEMENTATION OF TIWAHE

Key Principles Underpinning the Tiwahe Outcomes Framework

- Willingness to adopt and adapt the key principles underpinning the Tribe's implementation of Tiwahe.⁸

Measuring Impact

- Willingness to implement infrastructure to support Tiwahe, including allocating human capital and complementing technology, given tribal context and resource availability.⁹
- Data collection and reporting practices to measure and reflect outcomes that matter to families.¹⁰
- Proposed outcomes by the Tribe.

Capacity and Support

- Understands needs and gaps in Tribe's ability to build capacity and support the Tiwahe Outcomes Framework¹¹
- Willingness and ability to evolve current systems to deliver on the Tiwahe Outcomes Framework¹²
- Finance/accounting systems that can utilize Tiwahe flexibilities to take advantage of flexible funding opportunities that Tiwahe espouses
- Can implement certain programming such as JPT
- Can implement culture into programming

BACKGROUND AND DEMOGRAPHICS

- Current demographics of the Tribe's members and those serviced or in need of service.
- Current social indicators in priority areas identified by the Tribe.
- Current partnerships among local, tribal, county, state, and federal providers to improve access to services for tribal children, youth, and families.
- Support of Tribal members and ability to communicate effectively with them.
- BIA Direct Service, 638, Self-Governance, other Tribal Consortia

⁸ Appendix 3: Tiwahe Outcomes Framework, P14

⁹ Appendix 3: Tiwahe Outcomes Framework, P11

¹⁰ Appendix 3: Tiwahe Outcomes Framework, P10

¹¹ Appendix 3: Tiwahe Outcomes Framework – Preface, P2, "Challenges arose that required the Tiwahe pilot tribes to develop new skills in areas such as needs assessments and gap analyses to build capacity and support and to develop performance objectives and measures of success."

¹² Appendix 3: Tiwahe Outcomes Framework – Preface, P2, "Challenges arose that required the Tiwahe pilot tribes to develop new skills in areas such as needs assessments and gap analyses to build capacity and support and to develop performance objectives and measures of success."

Tiwahe Face Sheet

Date

Tribe or Tribal Organization Name

Primary Point of Contact Name

Primary POC Email

Primary POC Phone

Secondary Point of Contact Name

Secondary POC Email

Secondary POC Phone

Tribe or Tribal Organization Information

BIA Region:	Alaska	Eastern	Eastern Oklahoma	Great Plains
	Midwest	Navajo	Northwest	Pacific
	Rocky Mountain	Southern Plains	Southwest	Western
Social Service Governance Type:	OSG	638	Direct	None

Tribe or Tribal Organization Mailing Address:

Street

City

State

ZIP Code

Tribal or Tribal Organization Leader Contact Information:

Name

Email

Phone

Tribal or Tribal Organization Demographics:

Total Tribal Membership or Enrolled Citizens:

Has a Reservation:

☐ Yes

☐ No

PL-280:

☐ Yes

☐ No

477 Program:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Other:



Contact

Meghan Bishop, Policy Specialist



Phone

202-208-7163



Email

meghan.bishop@bia.gov

Date Received

Date Confirmation Sent

LOI No:



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

June 8, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

The Honorable Buu Nygren
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs inviting you to the commission hearing on July 25-26, 2023, in Billings, Montana. Please review the enclosure for the registration and hearing information. Written testimony and questions can be submitted to NIAC@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,

**GREGORY
MEHOJAH**

Digitally signed by GREGORY
MEHOJAH
Date: 2023.06.08 14:52:04
-06'00'

Gregory C. Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Amber Crotty, Honorable Council Delegate, 25th Navajo Nation Council



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 08 2023

Dear Tribal Leader,

In October 2020, the Not Invisible Act of 2019 was signed into law—to increase coordination in identifying and combating violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians—in response to the longstanding crises of missing and murdered Indigenous people (MMIP) and human trafficking (HT).

Pursuant to section 4 of the act, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland and I established the Not Invisible Act Commission (Commission), which consists of Federal and non-Federal members. More information on the Commission and its members can be found [here](#). The Commission is required, by October 2023, to submit a final report to Congress, the Attorney General, and me with recommendations on how to improve intergovernmental coordination, bolster resources, and establish best practices for State/Tribal/Federal law enforcement to help combat this epidemic of violence.

To help achieve this requirement of section 4, the Commission is holding national hearings to solicit public testimony at multiple locations to shape its final report recommendations on specific MMIP and HT topics. These hearings will provide a forum for law enforcement, subject-matter experts, organizations, State/Tribal task forces, advocates, survivors/families, and other stakeholders to offer testimony directly to the Commission in order to improve cross-jurisdictional communications, increase access to resources, and address other issues related to the MMIP and HT crises.

Please join the next Commission hearings—details are below. Additional hearing locations are [here](#).

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	HEARING TOPIC
July 25-26, 2023*	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. MT	Billings Hotel & Convention Center, 1223 Muldowney Lane, Billings, MT 59101	Policies and Programs - Reporting and Collecting Data on Missing, Murdered, Human Trafficked Indigenous People (MMIP and HT) and Victim and Family Resources & Services for Native Americans in Urban Areas and on Tribal Lands

*The morning of July 25, 2023 is open to media.

Registration and Hearing Information:

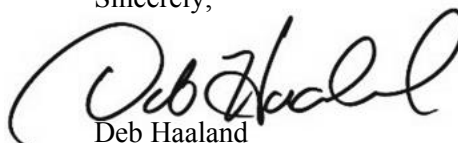
Commission members will lead the public hearings to address topics specified under the act and listed above. Each hearing will include open-press segments, as well as closed-press segments that provide privacy to participants without media being present. Trauma-informed support will be available onsite with optional follow-up support, as needed. The Commission's facilitation team will be present to document all oral testimony. Please note that any information provided during the hearings—including oral testimony and written comments—is considered public record, so please protect nonpublic or sensitive information accordingly. Register [here](#) if you plan to attend the hearing in-person.

Written Testimony and Questions:

Submit written testimony, recommendations, or questions to the Commission at: NIAC@ios.doi.gov. Include the following in the subject line: "NIAC Testimony" or "NIAC Question."

Thank you in advance for supporting the Commission's work to address the MMIP and HT crises. Only with the collective participation of all our communities will our missing, murdered, or trafficked relatives and friends no longer be invisible.

Sincerely,



Deb Haaland



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

June 13, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

The Honorable Buu Nygren
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Secretary of the Interior regarding the Not Invisible Act of 2019, to increase coordination in identifying and combating violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians. The next Commission hearing will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on June 29 and 30, 2023. Please review the enclosure for the registration and hearing information including written testimony and questions.

Sincerely,

**ANGELA
ARVISO**

Angela M. Arviso
Acting Regional Director

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ANGELA ARVISO
Date: 2023.06.14
12:02:36 -06'00'

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Amber Crotty, Honorable Council Delegate, 25th Navajo Nation Council



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 09 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

In October 2020, the Not Invisible Act of 2019 was signed into law—to increase coordination in identifying and combating violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians—in response to the longstanding crises of missing and murdered Indigenous people (MMIP) and human trafficking (HT).

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To help achieve this requirement of section 4, the Commission is holding national hearings to solicit public testimony at multiple locations to shape its final report recommendations on specific MMIP and HT topics. These hearings will provide a forum for law enforcement, subject-matter experts, organizations, State/Tribal task forces, advocates, survivors/families, and other stakeholders to offer testimony directly to the Commission in order to improve cross-jurisdictional communications, increase access to resources, and address other issues related to the MMIP and HT crises.

Please join the next Commission hearings—details are below. The full hearing schedule is available [here](#).

DATE*	TIME	LOCATION	HEARING TOPICS
June 29, 2023	9 a.m.–5 p.m. MT	Crowne Plaza Albuquerque 1901 University Blvd., NE Albuquerque, NM 87102	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment and Retention of Tribal and BIA Law Enforcement• Legislative and Administrative Changes
June 30, 2023	9 a.m.–4 p.m. MT		

*On June 28, 2023, prior to the public hearings listed above, panel hearings will be held that are closed to the public but attended by media.

Registration and Hearing Information:

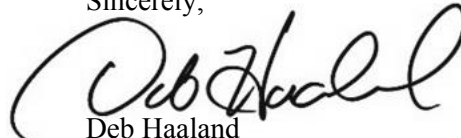
Commission members will lead the public hearings to address topics specified under the act and listed above. Each hearing will include open-press segments, as well as closed-press segments that provide privacy to participants without media being present. Trauma-informed support will be available onsite with optional follow-up support, as needed. The Commission’s facilitation team will be present to document all oral testimony. Please note that any information provided during the hearings—including oral testimony and written comments—is considered public record, so please protect nonpublic or sensitive information accordingly. Register [here](#) if you plan to attend the hearing in person.

Written Testimony and Questions:

Submit written testimony, recommendations, or questions to the Commission at: NIAC@ios.doi.gov. Include the following in the subject line: “NIAC Testimony” or “NIAC Question.”

Thank you in advance for supporting the Commission’s work to address the MMIP and HT crises. Only with the collective participation of all our communities will our missing, murdered, or trafficked relatives and friends no longer be invisible.

Sincerely,



Deb Haaland



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

June 26, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

The Honorable Buu Nygren
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a Dear Tribal Leader letter from the Deputy Director for Climate and Environment, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy regarding the upcoming Tribal consultation on the development of the Federal government's first Ocean Justice Strategy. The consultation is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. ET.

Please review the enclosure for more information about the Ocean Justice Strategy, and Request for information that was recently published seeking public input for developing the Ocean Justice Strategy, available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2023-12271>.

Sincerely,

ANGELA
ARVISO

Digitally signed by
ANGELA ARVISO
Date: 2023.06.26 13:15:29
-06'00'

Angela M. Arviso
Acting Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C.



June 23, 2023

Via Email

Dear Tribal Leader,

We write on behalf of the Ocean Policy Committee¹ (OPC) to invite you to a Tribal consultation on the development of the Federal government's first Ocean Justice Strategy. The development of this strategy is grounded in the Biden-Harris Administration's belief that all people should have equitable access to the benefits provided by the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes, but that too often those benefits and the negative impacts of human activities — such as climate change, pollution, and overfishing — are not shared equitably across communities.

The Ocean Justice Strategy will strengthen the President's commitment to delivering environmental justice to Tribal Nations and all communities across America by describing the vision, goals, and high-level actions needed to coordinate and guide ocean justice activities across the Federal government. The Ocean Justice Strategy will include: a definition of ocean justice; a description of the barriers and opportunities for ocean justice; a description of how ocean justice should apply to access to and management of the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes; and guidance on how to apply ocean justice to the scientific enterprise of knowledge building, including the consideration, inclusion, and, with permission, incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge.

For more information about the Ocean Justice Strategy, please see the Request for Information that was recently published seeking public input for developing the Ocean Justice Strategy, available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2023-12271>.

Questions for Tribal Consultation

The OPC is interested in working with Tribal Nations to develop the Ocean Justice Strategy, and we are hosting the following Tribal consultation to discuss the scope and content of the Strategy. We welcome input on all aspects of the Ocean Justice Strategy. We are specifically seeking input on the topics presented in the Request for Information. In particular, we are seeking your input and feedback on the following:

- 1) The definition of ocean justice in the context of your Tribe;
- 2) Barriers to realizing ocean justice, including ocean justice challenges central to Federal government action;
- 3) Potential elements, activities, and components of the Federal government's Ocean Justice Strategy;
- 4) Injustices related to the ocean that the Federal government should address;

¹ The Ocean Policy Committee is co-chaired by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and it serves as the Congressionally-mandated, Cabinet-level body charged with coordinating ocean policy across the Federal Government. For more information, see <https://www.noaa.gov/interagency-ocean-policy>

- 5) Examples of just Federal government decisions related to the ocean, and ways to scale up or broaden those decisions or actions;
- 6) Ocean justice solutions that can or should also be led by non-Federal entities, including how the Federal government can better support Tribally-led efforts to remedy past harms and advance ocean justice; and
- 7) Any other thoughts and input that you may have for the Federal government as we develop the Ocean Justice Strategy.

We strongly value your thoughts. Please feel free to consider these topics and any others described in the [Request for Information](#) for the Ocean Justice Strategy as you prepare for the consultation. You may provide views related to these topics or on topics not covered here or in the Request for Information.

Tribal Consultation

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET

Location: Virtual

Please register in advance at:

<https://pitc.webex.com/weblink/register/r341ac88b08f7041be6c066964a665a39>

In addition to or instead of joining the Tribal consultation above, you may provide your written input by **Friday, August 25, 2023**. Please send your written submissions to Brendan Philip, Deputy Director for Water Infrastructure at the Council on Environmental Quality, via email at Brendan.T.Philip@ceq.eop.gov and identify your submission as “Ocean Justice Strategy Tribal Consultation.” If you have any questions regarding this effort, please feel free to contact Brendan Philip via email or by phone at (202) 881-9998.

Thank you for sharing your insight, knowledge, and ideas with us as we work to achieve ocean justice for all Americans and as we seek to reduce the negative impacts of human activities that are felt disproportionately by Tribal Nations. We hope that you will join us for this important discussion and greatly value your participation and input.

Sincerely,



Brenda Mallory

Chair

White House Council on Environmental Quality



Dr. Jane Lubchenco

Deputy Director for Climate and Environment

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

June 26, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

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Post Office Box 7440
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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3:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET

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Sincerely,



Brenda Mallory

Chair

White House Council on Environmental Quality



Dr. Jane Lubchenco

Deputy Director for Climate and Environment

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

June 26, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

The Honorable Buu Nygren
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a memorandum from the Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the availability of funding from the Division of Natural Resources Agriculture Branch, Bison Management on the Bison Management.

The Navajo Regional Office will accept the proposals until July 28, 2023, or sooner. Please contact Thomas Mendez, Branch of Agriculture, by email at Thomas.Mendez@bia.gov or at (505) 270-3599 for information regarding the proposal. For information regarding the proposal submission, you may contact Dr. Calvert Curley, Branch of Natural Resource via email at Calvert.Curley@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

ANGELA
ARVISO

Digitally signed by
ANGELA ARVISO
Date: 2023.06.26
14:56:32 -06'00'

Angela M. Arviso
Acting Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Mike Halona, Division of Natural Resources, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Washington, DC 20240

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors

Through: Deputy Bureau Director, Field Operations

From: Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Subject: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Climate Resilience, Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law Eco-System Restoration (BIL-ER), Bison Project Funding

This memorandum serves as the announcement of the availability of funding through the Office of Trust Services, Division of Natural Resources' Agriculture Branch, Bison Management. The Bison Project expects to provide 3 competitive projects and non-recurring 1 year project funding within the area of Bison in Fiscal Year 2023:

1. BIL-ER Bison Project – The Bureau expects to provide \$1.5 million in BIL-ER competitive Bison funding for 3 projects at \$500,000 each. The attached, *Bureau of Indian Affairs – Bison Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process*, provides guidance for those interested in participating in this program.

The Central Office, OTS Agriculture Program requests your assistance in informing the tribes within your Region of the project funding opportunity and in conducting initial processing of funding requests. Each Region will be responsible for distributing program materials to eligible entities, receiving completed funding proposals from applicants, reviewing proposals to ensure they meet eligibility criteria, and ranking proposals according to the ranking criteria and regional priority.

The regional offices must receive all applications for the Agricultural Branch BIL-ER Bison project funding by July 28, 2023. Regional contact information is included within the application guidance document. Please contact Thomas Mendez, Branch of Agriculture, by email at Thomas.Mendez@bia.gov or at (505) 270-3599 for information regarding the proposal.

Attachments

Bureau of Indian Affairs – OTS Bison BIL-ER Planning and Start Up funding Criteria and Application Process

Applicant Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments, (Tribes authorized under P.L. 93-638) in order to engage in the new establishment of a Tribal Bison Program.

Proposal Eligibility

- Proposals must provide the contact information for the Tribal project manager overseeing the proposed Bison project.
- The proposal budget cannot include tribal indirect rate. *Tribal indirect rate comes from a separate account and should be requested at the time you develop the budget with BIA, contracting officials (if selected for funding).*

Project Eligibility

Successful applications will focus on planning for the startup of Bison management development on tribal trust lands, individual Indian allotment lands, or in areas managed by tribes through treaties or agreements.

The Bison project will focus on Bison start up development and planning on Tribal Trust Resources and describe the role of tribal Bison on eco-system restoration on tribal landscapes and altered tribal environmental conditions. This funding can cover Bison as indicator keystone species on agricultural pasture, grassland and rangeland settings.

Funding focus can include:

- 1) **Planning** funding would allow tribes to participate in local/regional/national forums and/or planning efforts and foster Co-Management/Co-Stewardship partnerships of understanding and/or agreement for the collaborative natural, cultural, and human dimension informational needs.
- 2) **Development** funding would provide trust resources where Bison are not already established and/or are seeking restoration.
- 3) **Implementation** funding would assist tribes in implementing management or other established protocols aimed at fence control, management, transportation of Bison, Bison management activities, infrastructure, personnel, supportive asset development, genetic consideration, disease control, and adaptive management. Source tribal youth in coordination with BIA on Bison Management Apprenticeship with NPS, FWS and DOI Bison Work Group.

Funding requests are maximized at \$500,000 per application.

Ranking Criteria

All projects should focus on eco-system restoration enabled through Bison introductory prevalence on tribal rangelands, pastures and grassland conservation management scales that address productive collective impacts on tribal ecological, Cultural, and historic use within tribal natural resources.

Eligible projects will be ranked according to the following criteria:

- The scope to which a proposal provides the means of conservation and management of tribal Bison.
- The scale to which Bison introduction, conservation, management, and cultural presence benefits Eco-system Restoration
- The character of benefit of Bison introduction to native species and other tribal natural resources.
- Reference to which the proposal demonstrates an awareness and ability to achieve environmental compliance (NEPA, ESA) and other permitting requirements.
- Enhances the spiritual and cultural beliefs and practices of the Tribe.
- The integration of Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Method of final project report format

All projects must focus on the startup, planning, introduction of Bison on Tribal trust lands, individual Indian allotment lands, or in areas managed by tribes through treaties or agreements.

This funding source is non-recurring 1 year funding. Thus, the goals of any proposed project should not rely on future funding. Awarded projects will require biannual reporting to share and demonstrate success on planning, development, and project implementation.

How to Apply

Submit your proposal to the Regional office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs that services your area.

Proposals are due to your regional office (contact info below) by close of business on July 28, 2023.

The proposal should clearly address the ranking criteria listed above and be limited to six pages maximum (not including letters of support/contributions).

Please submit a proposal in the following format:

- I. Introduction/Background – Name of applicant, project name, project location, a brief background and description of the issue. This section should conclude with a brief statement summarizing your request.
- II. Methodology – How you plan on accomplishing the task.
- III. Budget - Need a detailed line item expenditure breakdown. Do not include contract support cost (indirect cost).

BIA Regional Contact List for Bison Project Program Funding

Great Plains	Southern Plains	Eastern	Midwest	Eastern Oklahoma	Rocky Mt
Diane Mann-klager, Natural Resource Director Diane.Mann- Klager@bia.gov	David Anderson, RES david.anderson @bia.gov	Keith Bluecloud & Harold Peterson (615) 564-6838 first.last@bia.gov	Patricia Olby Patricia.Olby@ bia.gov	Bradley Peak (918) 781-4642 bradley.peak@bia .gov	David Hopkins, Rangeland Management Specialist David Hopkins@bia.gov
Address: BIA, Great Plains Region, Division of Natural Resources, MC 301, 115 4 th Ave. SE, Suite 400, Aberdeen, SD 57401	Address: BIA, P.O. Box 368, Anadarko, OK 73005	Address: BIA, 545 Marriott Dr. Suite 700, Nashville TN 37214	Address: BIA, 5600 W. American Blvd, Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55437	Address: BIA, 3100 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee, OK 74401	Address: BIA, Rocky Mountain Region, Division of Natural Resources, 2021 4 th Ave. North, Billings, MT 59101

Navajo	Southwest	Western	Pacific	Northwest	Alaska
Calvert Curley Natural Resource Director, Acting Deputy Regional Director Calvert.Curley@ bia.gov	Waylon Denny - Branch Chief DESCRM waylon.denny@bia. gov	Catherine Wilson Acting Deputy Regional Director Catherine.Wilson@ bia.gov	Douglas Garcia Water Right Specialist Douglas.Garcia @ bia.gov	Robert Compton - Rangeland Mgt. Spec. robert.compton@ bia.gov	Rosalie Debenham, Fish and Wildlife Biologist rosalie.debenham@ bia.gov
Address: BIA, Navajo Region, 301 W. Hill St., PO Box 1060, Gallup, NM 87305	Address: BIA, Southwest Region, 1001 Indian School Road, NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104	Address: BIA, Western Region 2600 N. Central Ave, 4 th Floor Mailroom, Phoenix, AZ 85004	Address: BIA, Sacramento Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825	Address: Bureau of Indian Affairs, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland Oregon 97232	Address: BIA, P.O. Box 21647, Juneau, AK 99802



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

June 27, 2023

ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED

The Honorable Buu Nygren
President, Navajo Nation
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

Enclosed is a letter from the Director, Cultural Heritage Center, regarding a tribal consultation on the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act of 2021, Pub. L. 117-258.

Please review the enclosure for the upcoming tribal consultations scheduled for July 27, 2023, and August 9, 2023, to be held virtually via zoom meeting and on August 18, 2023, at the Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Written comments are also welcomed to tribalconsultation@state.gov by August 25, 2023.

Sincerely,

ANGELA
ARVISO

Digitally signed by
ANGELA ARVISO
Date: 2023.06.27
15:32:04 -06'00'

Angela M. Arviso
Acting Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Richelle Montoya, Madam Vice President, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Ms. Sherylene Yazzie, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Ms. Bitah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel, OPVP, Navajo Nation
Mr. Mike Halona, Division of Natural Resources, Navajo Nation



United States Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Washington, DC 20037

June 27, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader,

The Department of State will participate in Tribal consultations on the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act of 2021, Pub. L. 117-258. The STOP Act aims to prevent the international export of cultural items prohibited from trafficking under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

On April 26, 2023, the Department of the Interior sent a letter to Tribal leaders announcing a Tribal consultation schedule on implementation of the STOP Act. This letter announces that the Department of State will participate in the following STOP Act Tribal consultation sessions organized by the Department of the Interior:

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, July 27, 2023	2:30pm – 4:30pm ET	Virtual on Zoom Please pre-register at https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSf-urpjMqHMo46mmyCkEbJ6u1kXNFr1Q
Tuesday, August 9, 2023	3:00pm – 5:00pm ET	Virtual on Zoom Please pre-register at https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlTfu-uri8qHjtJVkEvU8WNvb8oxFJCEF4
Friday, August 18, 2023	9:00am – 12:00pm MT	BLM New Mexico State Office Amarillo Creek/Canadian Rms. 301 Dinosaur Trail Santa Fe, NM 87508



The Department of State seeks Tribal input on the following questions specifically related to the development of draft regulations for, and implementation of, the STOP Act.

What should the Department of State consider when:

1. determining the type of engagement to pursue with a foreign government regarding Native American tangible cultural heritage,
2. determining which foreign governments and institutions to prioritize for engagement on the return of Native American tangible cultural heritage, and
3. engaging with Tribes, foreign governments, and foreign institutions on the voluntary return of Native American tangible cultural heritage?

The Department of State welcomes your written comments on the above consultation questions by email to tribalconsultation@state.gov by 11:59pm ET on Friday, August 25, 2023.

If you have any questions regarding the Department of State's Tribal consultation participation, please contact Ashley Fry, Indigenous Affairs Officer with the Department of State's Cultural Heritage Center, via email at FryAD@state.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric Catalfamo".

Eric Catalfamo

Director

Cultural Heritage Center

Appendix B – News Release

<https://www.bia.gov/press-releases>

June 2023

PRESS RELEASE

Interior Department Announces Behavioral Health and Wellness Program for Tribal Schools

Bureau of Indian Education schools will receive virtual counseling and on-site crisis services

Date: 06/29/2023

May 2023

PRESS RELEASE

Indian Affairs announces 100th HEARTH Act approval

Milestone reached with approval of Pueblo of Santa Clara's leasing ordinance

Date: 05/31/2023

PRESS RELEASE

Indian Affairs Awarding \$2.7 Million in Tribal Broadband Grants

Grants to help shrink the digital divide in Indian Country

Date: 05/24/2023

PRESS RELEASE

Haskell Indian Nations University announces new president

Dr. Francis Arpan, a citizen of the Yankton Sioux Tribe, will serve as the new president of Haskell Indian Nations University.

Date: 05/23/2023

PRESS RELEASE

Indian Affairs accepting applications for Living Languages Grants

Program updates include larger grant amounts and multi-year projects

Date: 05/17/2023